

Notice of Council

Date: Tuesday, 8 November 2022 at 7.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY



Chairman:

Cllr N Hedges

Vice Chairman:

Cllr T O'Neill

Cllr H Allen
Cllr L Allison
Cllr M Anderson
Cllr S C Anderson
Cllr M Andrews
Cllr J Bagwell
Cllr S Baron
Cllr S Bartlett
Cllr J Beesley
Cllr D Borthwick
Cllr P Broadhead
Cllr M F Brooke
Cllr N Brooks
Cllr D Brown
Cllr S Bull
Cllr R Burton
Cllr D Butler
Cllr D Butt
Cllr J J Butt
Cllr E Coope
Cllr M Cox
Cllr M Davies
Cllr N Decent
Cllr L Dedman
Cllr B Dion

Cllr B Dove
Cllr B Dunlop
Cllr M Earl
Cllr J Edwards
Cllr L-J Evans
Cllr G Farquhar
Cllr D Farr
Cllr L Fear
Cllr A Filer
Cllr D A Flagg
Cllr S Gabriel
Cllr M Greene
Cllr N Greene
Cllr A Hadley
Cllr M Haines
Cllr P R A Hall
Cllr P Hilliard
Cllr M Howell
Cllr M Iyengar
Cllr C Johnson
Cllr T Johnson
Cllr A Jones
Cllr J Kelly
Cllr D Kelsey
Cllr R Lawton

Cllr M Le Poidevin
Cllr L Lewis
Cllr R Maidment
Cllr A Martin
Cllr C Matthews
Cllr S McCormack
Cllr D Mellor
Cllr P Miles
Cllr S Moore
Cllr L Northover
Cllr S Phillips
Cllr M Phipps
Cllr K Rampton
Cllr Dr F Rice
Cllr V Ricketts
Cllr C Rigby
Cllr R Rocca
Cllr M Robson
Cllr V Slade
Cllr A M Stribley
Cllr T Trent
Cllr M White
Cllr L Williams
Cllr K Wilson

All Members of the Council are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:
<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=5030>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact:
Democratic Services on 01202 096660 or democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or
email.press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

31 October 2022



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer
(susan.zeiss@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. **Declarations of Interests**

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes**

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 12 July 2022.

11 - 30

4. **Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman.

5. **Public Issues**

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution, which is available to view at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of a public question is 4 clear working days before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a public statement is midday the working day before the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is 10 working days before the meeting.

6. **Petition - Public No Confidence Vote on BCP Leadership**

Council is advised that a petition with 2,066 valid signatures has been received requesting that:

“We Council Tax payers have lost all confidence in BCP Council's leader and deputy and we call on them to resign now.”

In accordance with the Constitution a petition with 2,000 + signatures will be referred for debate at a meeting of full Council. The Council is asked to consider the petition and to determine next steps.

7. Recommendations from the Cabinet and Committees

Please refer to the recommendations detailed below.

- | | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----------|
| 7 | (a) | Cabinet 27 July 2022 - Minute No 30 - Harmonising Community Infrastructure Levy
RECOMMENDED that Council: -
(a) Approve the proposed BCP CIL Instalment Policy;
(b) Approve the proposed BCP CIL Payment in Kind Policy; and
(c) Approve the BCP CIL Discretionary Relief Statement. | 31 - 46 |
| 7 | (b) | Cabinet 27 July 2022 - Minute No 33 - Youth Justice Service - Annual Youth Justice Plan
RECOMMENDED that Full Council approve the Annual Youth Justice Plan. | 47 - 90 |
| 7 | (c) | Audit and Governance Committee 28 July 2022 - Minute No. 117 - Treasury Management Monitoring Report
RECOMMENDED that Council: -
(d) approves the revised prudential indicators set out in table 9 of the report ('Revised Treasury Indicators: limits to borrowing activity');

Note – resolution (a), (b), (c) and (e) were determined by the Audit and Governance Committee | 91 - 106 |
| 7 | (d) | Cabinet 7 September 2022 - Minute No. 42 - Wessex Fields Site - University Hospital Dorset Link Road

PLEASE NOTE: Should the Council wish to discuss the detail of Appendix A it will be necessary to exclude the press and public and move into confidential (exempt) session. If applicable, the following resolution should be moved:

<i>"That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information."</i>
RECOMMENDED that Council:-
(a) approve the budget increase as detailed in Confidential appendix A; and
(b) approve this is funded from the council's Futures Fund. | 107 - 122 |

7	<p>(e) Cabinet 7 September 2022 - Minute No. 45 - Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Implementation</p> <p>RECOMMENDED that Council:-</p> <p>(a) subject to confirmation of an award, accepts the £8.9m Bus Service Improvement Plan funding for the period 2022/23 to 2024/25 from the Department for Transport; and</p> <p>(b) delegates delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to the Service Director for Transport and Engineering in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport.</p>	123 - 128
7	<p>(f) Cabinet 28 September 2022 - Minute No. 53 - Finance Strategy Update Report</p> <p>RECOMMENDED that Council:-</p> <p>(d) pending the presentation of new viable business cases, remove from the Capital Programme the debt commitments to the Winter Gardens and Cotlands developments; and</p> <p>(e) release the earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix C.</p> <p>Note – resolutions (a), (b) and (c) were resolved matters by the Cabinet.</p>	129 - 146
7	<p>(g) Cabinet 28 September 2022 - Minute No. 57 - BCP Community Safety Partnership Strategy</p> <p>RECOMMENDED that the BCP Community Safety Partnership Strategy be approved.</p>	147 - 232
7	<p>(h) Cabinet 26 October 2022 - Minute No. 64 - Finance Strategy Update Report</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Should the Council wish to discuss the detail of Appendix B it will be necessary to exclude the press and public and move into confidential (exempt) session. If applicable, the following resolution should be moved:</p> <p><i>“That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.”</i></p> <p>RECOMMENDED that Council:-</p> <p>(f) approve £1.9m of investment in 2022/23 in a specific transformation workstream in Children’s Services as set out in appendix A; and</p> <p>(g) approve the further release of earmarked reserves as set out in appendix C.</p> <p>Note – resolutions (a) to (e) were resolved matters by the Cabinet</p>	233 - 254

7	<p>(i) Cabinet 26 October 2022 - Minute No. 74 - Children's Services - Pay Review</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Should the Council wish to discuss the detail of the report or any appendices it will be necessary to exclude the press and public and move into confidential (exempt) session. If applicable, the following resolution should be moved:</p> <p><i>“That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.”</i></p> <p>RECOMMENDED that Option 5, as outlined in Appendix 2 to the submitted, be approved.</p>	255 - 286
7	<p>(j) Audit and Governance Committee 27 October 2022 - Minute No. 148 - Review of the Council's Constitution</p> <p>RECOMMENDED that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) in relation to Issue 1 (Powers of Head of Paid Service in relation to contracted workers), no changes be made to the Constitution; (b) in relation to Issue 2 (Standing to speak at Council and associated etiquette), the proposed amendments to the existing Procedure Rule 13.4 (page 4-49) and the insertion of a new Procedure Rule 6 (Duration of meetings) (page 4-37), be approved; (c) in relation to Issue 3 (Process for interpretation of Procedure Rules), the proposed amendments to the existing Procedure Rule 21 (page 4-54), be approved; (d) in relation to Issue 4 (Questions by Councillors at Council Meetings), the proposed amendments to the existing Procedure Rules 11.7 (page 4-42) and 13.5 (page 4-49), be approved; (e) in relation to Issue 5 (Arrangements for voting from the public gallery), no changes be made to the Constitution; (f) in relation to Issue 6 (Categories of officers falling within the definition of senior officers), the proposed amendments to the terms of reference for the Appeals Committee and the Investigation and Disciplinary Committee (pages 3-19 and 3-19), be approved; (g) in relation to Issue 7 (Thresholds/Levels of Financial Delegation), no changes be made to the Constitution; (h) in relation to Issue 8 (Public participation – Public Questions, Statements and Petitions), the proposed amendments to the existing Procedure Rules 12 (pages 4-42 to 4-48), be approved, subject to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the exclusion of the proposed new rule 13.4.9 (page 4-43); 	287 - 326

- b. the exclusion of the proposed new rule 13.5.6 (page 4-44);
 - c. the exclusion of the proposed new rule 13.5.7 (page 4-45);
 - d. the exclusion of the proposed changes to existing rule 12.5.6 (page 4-45);
 - e. the 100 word limit referred to in existing rules 12.4.4 (page 4-43) and 12.5.4 (page 4-44) being amended to read 120;
- (i) in relation to Issue 9 (Access to documents – Overview and Scrutiny Committees), the proposed amendment to the existing Procedure Rules 24.3 (page 4-17), be approved;
 - (j) in relation to Issue 10 (Prevent Channel – Statutory functions), the proposed amendment to Part 2, Article 12 (Decision Making) (page 2-25), be approved;
 - (k) in relation to Issue 11 (Co-opted and other non-Councillor members of Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee), the proposed insertion of paragraph 6.7.3 to Part 2, Article 6 (page 2-14) and Part 3A, paragraph 4.5 (page 3-13), be approved;
 - (l) in relation to Issue 12 (Planning process governance issues), no changes be made to the Constitution;
 - (m) in relation to Issue 13 (Voting by Councillors), the proposed insertion of paragraph 18.1 to existing Procedure Rule 17 (page 4-53), be approved;
 - (n) in relation to Issue 14 (Attendance of councillors at meetings), no changes be made to the Constitution;
 - (o) in relation to Issue 15 (Lead Members on Scrutiny), Part 2, Article 6 (Overview and Scrutiny), paragraph 6.4.2 (page 2-13) be amended to read:-

“Lead Members of the Cabinet may not be a member of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.”
 - (p) in relation to Issue 16 (Eligibility for election of office), the proposed insertion of paragraphs 2.5 and 2.5 to existing Procedure Rule 2 (pages 4-36 and 4-37), be approved;
 - (q) in relation to Issue 17 (Planning Committee Delegations), the proposed insertion to Part 3A, paragraph 2.4 (page 3-9), be approved;
 - (r) any necessary and consequential technical and formatting related updates and revisions to the Constitution be made by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with powers delegated.

<p>8. Update on role of the Health and Wellbeing Boards in the Integrated Care System</p> <p>This report was prepared for the Health and Wellbeing Board seeking support to recommend to full Council an alteration to the terms of reference of the Board to incorporate responsibilities as the strategic board for the place-based partnership developing in the BCP Council area, as part of the Dorset Integrated Care System.</p> <p>The Board meeting scheduled for 13 October 2022 was inquorate and unable to make the formal recommendation to full Council. Due to the urgency, this matter is being brought direct to Council for consideration.</p> <p>It is RECOMMENDED that the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board be amended to include responsibilities as the strategic board for the place-based partnership developing in the BCP Council area, as part of the Dorset Integrated Care System.</p>	327 - 332
<p>9. Review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each Political Group, appointment of Councillors to Committees and appointments to Outside bodies</p> <p>The Council is asked to consider and approve the review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each Political Group, appointment of Councillors to Committees and appointments to Outside bodies following Councillors Jackie Edwards and Andy Jones leaving the Conservative Group to be unaligned, and the result of the by-election in the Highcliffe and Walkford Ward.</p>	333 - 338
<p>10. Homes for Ukraine Tariff</p> <p>BCP council claims a tariff of £10,500 per person for those who have arrived in the area via the Homes for Ukraine refugee resettlement scheme. Financial regulations require full council agreement for acceptance of these funds, as well as agreement to spend these funds in line with the published grant conditions from government.</p> <p>As the number of Ukrainian guests already in BCP is estimated to be around 523 in the year 2022/23 this involves a projected grant income of £5,491,500</p> <p>This report sets out the purpose of the grant, the requests for acceptance of the funds, the authorisation to spend the funds and the delegation of future decisions on spending against this income.</p>	339 - 344
<p>11. Notices of Motion in accordance with Procedure Rule 9</p> <p>A – Decarbonising Transport</p> <p>The following motion submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules has been proposed by Councillor F Rice and seconded by Councillor G Farquhar:-</p> <p>‘In order to meet our climate emergency declaration, we will work to decarbonise the transport network in the BCP area in order to meet the government’s Net Zero Strategy. In order to</p>	

do this we will aim to meet the government's vision of 50% of journeys within the BCP area to be done by walking, scooting or cycling by 2030, as per the government's 'Decarbonising Transport. A Better, Greener Britain 2021 report'.

B - Clean Up Governance on Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council

The following motion submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules has been proposed by Councillor M Earl and seconded by Councillor V Slade:-

The Council notes:

Following a series of critical press appearances featuring BCP Council, we, as councillors, have a responsibility to clean up governance and start earning back residents' trust.

The residents we represent and the staff who serve this council should be proud of BCP Council. The proposals in this motion seek to 'clean up' governance in our council by responding positively and collectively to key concerns.

1. Council resolves to:

- a. **Instruct officers to bring a report to Audit & Governance that reviews Part 5 on Financial Regulations - Appendix 1 EX10 'Appointment of Consultants' of the Constitution with a view to reducing the threshold at which relevant Service Directors and Corporate Directors approve spend without a business case in place;**
- b. **Amend the constitution so it states that cabinet members cannot hold directorships of council related businesses;**
- c. **Invite the LGA or appropriate body to consider the constitution and make recommendations, particularly relating to governance, in conjunction with officers and members;**
- d. **Instruct officers to bring a report to council by March 2023 on options for alternative governance structures in BCP Council rather than a Leader, Cabinet & Cabinet Plus system.**

2. Council asks:

- a. **That the Leader considers the appropriateness of holding both the position of Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder responsible for the finance of this council.**

C – White Ribbon Accreditation

The following motion submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9 of the Meeting Procedure Rules has been proposed by Councillor L-J Evans and seconded by Councillor V Slade:-

White Ribbon UK was founded in 2005 and is part of a global movement to end male violence against women. It is a charity that works with men and boys to challenge attitudes that lead to harassment, abuse and violence. The need to change behaviour in order to avoid and prevent violence against women has never been clearer.

I would therefore like to propose that:

‘BCP Council explores options to become a White Ribbon Accredited organisation (www.whiteribbon.org.uk/organisations) by forming a working group, completing the necessary training, developing an Action Plan and paying the appropriate Accreditation Fee to White Ribbon UK.’

12. Questions from Councillors

The deadline for questions to be submitted to the Monitoring Officer is 5 September 2022.

13. Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution

To consider any urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 July 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr N Hedges – Chairman

Cllr T O'Neill – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr M Anderson, Cllr S C Anderson, Cllr M Andrews, Cllr J Bagwell, Cllr S Baron, Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr J Beesley, Cllr D Borthwick, Cllr P Broadhead, Cllr M F Brooke, Cllr N Brooks, Cllr D Brown, Cllr R Burton, Cllr D Butler, Cllr D Butt, Cllr J J Butt, Cllr E Coope, Cllr M Cox, Cllr M Davies, Cllr N Decent, Cllr L Dedman, Cllr B Dion, Cllr B Dove, Cllr B Dunlop, Cllr M Earl, Cllr J Edwards, Cllr L-J Evans, Cllr D Farr, Cllr L Fear, Cllr A Filer, Cllr D A Flagg, Cllr S Gabriel, Cllr M Greene, Cllr N Greene, Cllr A Hadley, Cllr M Haines, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr M Iyengar, Cllr C Johnson, Cllr T Johnson, Cllr A Jones, Cllr J Kelly, Cllr D Kelsey, Cllr M Le Poidevin, Cllr L Lewis, Cllr R Maidment, Cllr S McCormack, Cllr D Mellor, Cllr P Miles, Cllr S Moore, Cllr L Northover, Cllr S Phillips, Cllr M Phipps, Cllr K Rampton, Cllr Dr F Rice, Cllr V Ricketts, Cllr C Rigby, Cllr R Rocca, Cllr V Slade, Cllr A M Stribley, Cllr T Trent, Cllr M White, Cllr L Williams and Cllr K Wilson

15. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors H Allen, L Allison, S Bull, G Farquhar, P Hall, M Howell, R Lawton, C Matthews, M Robson and T Trent.

16. Declarations of Interests

The Monitoring Officer advised that if any Member is required to make any declaration of interest, they should refer to the flow chart set out on the agenda for guidance.

The Leader and the Deputy Leader of Council advised that they had been granted with dispensations from the Chief Executive in accordance with the relevant legislation by virtue of their directorships on companies in relation to Minute No. 21 (BCP FuturePlaces Ltd – Revised business plan and funding mechanism) and were therefore able to participate in the discussion and voting thereon.

17. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 26 April 2022 reconvened on the 10 May 2022, the Extraordinary Council meeting on the 10 May 2022, the Annual Council meeting on the 10 May 2022 and the Extraordinary Council meeting on the 21 June 2022 were confirmed subject to the following:

- Minute 152 (26 April 2022), paragraph 3, line 14 (page -13-), the word 'not' to be removed which otherwise negates what was said.
- Minute 153 (26 April 2022), paragraph 2, line 9 (page -31-), the word 'sucker' be replaced with 'succor'.

18. Announcements and Introductions from the Chairman

Councillor Nick Geary

The Chair informed council that Councillor Nick Geary had sadly recently passed away.

In relation to this the Chair advised that Nick Geary was first elected to Christchurch Borough Council in 1999 until 2003 representing the Portfield Ward and was subsequently re-elected in 2007 until 2019 representing the North Highcliffe and Walkford Ward. In addition the Chair advised that Councillor Geary had successfully stood for election to BCP Council in May 2019 as well as the newly established Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council in the same year.

Further to this the Chair advised that Councillor Geary was elected as Mayor for Christchurch twice in 2010 and 2017.

Councillors Brooks and Flagg relayed personal experiences of working with Councillor Geary following which Councillors were upstanding and there was a period of respectful silence following the sad passing of Councillor Nick Geary.

Councillor F Rice arrived at 7.15pm

Civic Activities

The Chair took the opportunity to refer to some of the engagements that he had attended since the last Council meeting as detailed below:

- Jubilee Service at Sherborne Abbey
- Met with the Chief Executive of the Dorset Community Foundation
- THE WELL Café in The Boscombe Royal Arcade with Cllr Jane Kelly
- Had a meeting with the Leader of BCP Council in the Old Town Hall in Christchurch with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Christchurch and the Christchurch Town Council, Town Clerk
- Jubilee Tree Planting ceremony on behalf of the Soroptimists at St Peter's School, Iford, with the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset
- Jubilee Tree Planting ceremony on behalf of the Soroptimists at Poole High School, with the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset
- Morning Service for the South Atlantic Medal Association in Christchurch
- Evening Dinner for the South Atlantic Medal Association in Christchurch
- The High Sheriff of Dorset's Summer Party at Durlston Castle
- Opened the Bourne Free event at Meyrick Park
- Christchurch Town Council Rededication Service at Christchurch Priory
- Remembering Srebrenica event in this Chamber

19. Public Issues

The Chair advised that a number of public issues had been submitted.

A – Public Questions

Public Question from Hilary Trott

Why does the council think they can re-define disabled parking? The Law is that disabled bays need space all round. It is not solely for wheelchair users, who naturally DO need this. Those with ANY limited mobility also need the side space so we can open the car door fully, enabling egress and re-entry.

The spaces in the first bay in the South Car Park by AFCB's ground do NOT all have this facility, so CANNOT be called spaces for the disabled.

If I used one of these spaces, I would be trapped in the car. They are NOT legal.

Response from Councillor Mike Greene, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport

The Council does not think that it can re-define disabled parking and is fully aware of the need to provide clear space all around.

Guidance is that disabled access parking spaces should be 2400mm x 4800mm with a 1200mm wide marked access zone between spaces and a 1200mm zone for boot access.

I would like to thank Ms Trott for highlighting that there was an issue with the first of the 14 disabled bays in the row at the northern end of the Car Park, which did not have a sufficiently wide access zone on its left-hand side. The other 13 bays were fully compliant.

On receipt of Ms Trott's message, the Parking Team inspected the location and ordered alterations to the markings within the car park to ensure that this end also has the required access zone on both sides of it. This work has been completed.

Public Question from Zoe Keeping (read by Mr Freeman)

On 19 January 2021 BCP Council were granted planning permission to demolish the existing park building in Churchill Gardens and erect a community/cafe building. We ask the Head of Planning to remove the condition to demolish the existing park building within 2 months of the new building being open to the public, applied to the grant of planning application, on the basis that is no longer relevant or reasonable. Churchill Gardens cannot afford to lose such a valuable community resource that has the potential to be repurposed to serve the community as a sustainable living centre under community management.

Response from Councillor Bobbie Dove, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Thank you for the request, although please note that the Head of Planning nor any other officer is able to unilaterally remove planning conditions without an application being first made.

In order to facilitate this matter through the correct procedure, the planning department would like to consider and understand the request through a pre-application enquiry. The local planning authority will then be able to consider the planning merits of the proposed retention of the building. The planning merits will take into consideration positive community value of this building so that the full impact of any decision made is fully considered and understood.

We would request that the Parks Department, who run the facility, are contacted so that a preapplication can be made.

Public Question from Zoe Keeping (read by Mr Freeman)

Will Bournemouth Youth Service (who own the building) grant The Friends of Churchill Gardens a lease to occupy the existing park building (on the same terms as currently offered to The Coastline Vineyard Church i.e. rent free) if it is possible to prevent the demolition of the building.

Response from Councillor Jane Kelly, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Health and Leisure

‘The ASPIRE project is a European Regional Development Funded project working with partners across Southern England and Northern France. In BCP we were awarded funding for a new community hub in Churchill Gardens and funding to support activities around health and wellbeing and growing, cooking and eating in a healthy way.

As part of the project, consultation was undertaken on the location of the new building and wider feedback around local residents view on the park. A park masterplan was developed with the local community that encompassed the whole area.

We welcome any interest from the community to engage with us about the management of community facilities, but until such time as we have seen a detailed proposal from the group it would be inappropriate for us to comment on an individual building. The council needs to be able to satisfy itself that any group taking on a facility will do so with the intention of continuing to invest in it and the community that it serves.

Members will be interested to know that the Council has made funding of £115,000 available to replace the current play area and support new landscaping of this area, further helping to transform Churchill Gardens in to a modern, accessible, high-quality space for the everyone to enjoy. I am pleased to announce that plans for the new play area will be developed over the autumn and construction is timetabled for the winter and early Spring.’

Public Question from Alex McKinstry

FuturePlaces confirmed earlier this year that they were looking to appoint three independent non-executive directors (NEDs). It sounded promising: a recruitment agency was involved, and one of the directors would be taking over from the deputy leader as independent chair of the company. I've since read the company minutes (24 March), which state that due to the recruitment agency's "limited reach", board members "would reach out personally to inform suitable candidates of the opening". To what extent will the leader and deputy leader of the Council - both board members - be involved in the selecting and hiring of these independent NEDs?

Response from Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council

I can confirm that a recruitment agency Berwick Partners has been appointed to manage this process for the advertising and selection of BCP FuturePlaces Chair and Non Exec Director roles. The opportunity has been advertised on the agency website and a variety of other websites such as The Guardian, Linked In, WomenonBoards, NonExecutiveDirectors.com, and The Ned Exchange to ensure the widest possible reach.

The opportunities are attracting strong interest from a diverse range of high calibre applicants, and we are confident of being able to appoint suitably experienced independent candidates to the company board. The closing date for applications was the 8 July.

The appointment of any director, including NEDs or the appointment of a Chair are reserved matters under the shareholders agreement, therefore Full Council approval will be required to be sought.

As previously intended, upon the appointment of these independent directors this will allow the leader and the deputy leader to step down as directors after completion of the successful launch of the Future Places. This will leave Future Places in the hands of one of the most capable regeneration and stewardship focused executive and director teams in the country.

You'll be glad that Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are perceived to be leading the way nationally in terms of regeneration.

The Chairman advised that a public question had also been received from Katie Cousins, who was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting. Council were advised that a written response from Councillor Nicola Greene would be forwarded to Katie Cousins following the meeting.

B – Public Statements

Statement from Susan Chapman on the climate emergency (read out by the Director of Finance)

Evidence-based presentations were given throughout the covid crisis. Given the very visible, international, escalating threats to well-being as the world of nature continues to be sacrificed to deadly industries Sir Patrick Vallance's MP briefing should be conveyed to all councillors, officers and to

the public so everyone can best brace themselves for the baked-in chaos ahead. Angus Rose's 37-day climate hunger strike has not yet reached the parts other briefings reach.

Preparation for reduced harvests, self-reliant clean energy, for limited, salvaged resources and for climate migration is essential. A public information programme is well overdue.

Statement from Philip Stanley-Watts on national cut the clutter on our streets week

This week is national cut the clutter on our streets week. Our pavements should be assessable to all, which is not the case for many of our streets in the BCP area. Many with poorly placed bins and aboard and excessive signage. badly parked vehicles and beryl bikes. accidents happen, it's hazardous for pedestrians. I should know as I broke my collar bone whilst out jogging falling over signage. there needs to be a BCP task and finish group to look into the clutter in our streets.

Statement from Philip Gatrell on the contravention of law report (read out by the Director of Finance)

REGARDING CONTRAVENTION OF LAW REPORT BY MONITORING OFFICER (MO) concerning: Substantially incorrect information originally published for Allowances & Expenses Payments to Members & Co-Optees 2019/20 & 2020/21 in contravention of Regulation 15(3) of Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003

Attention is drawn to the revised information & accompanying "Informative Notes" shown on the Council's website regarding the above. The revisions followed a "forensic examination" concerning substantial inaccuracies in amounts & categories I had notified including by Public Issue at Audit & Governance's meeting 3.2.22. The MO is "taking advice" as she is unsure this contravention of law requires obligatory reporting to Members under the Local Government & Housing Act 1989. However, the facts of the matter unquestionably warrant the MO's report to comply with the 1989 Act, given the nature & extent of the original misleading information. Hence also this Statement for general awareness.

Statement from Patricia Williamson on the buffer zone

"If a buffer zone is created, and politely offering an information leaflet is called "intimidation/harassment"... . then we cannot offer a pregnant woman a real choice i.e. the option of support to keep her baby, when she may have been co-erced or does not really want it killed.

If silent prayer is criminalised, then clearly the power of prayer is recognised. I now appeal to you, in the name of Jesus, who loves these mothers and their babies, to allow us to try, even in the last minutes, to save babies and their mothers from the trauma of abortion."

20. Petition - Stop women being harassed and intimidated outside the Ophir Road abortion clinic

The Chairman set out the process for dealing with the petition as set out in the Constitution.

Jess Bone the petition organiser from Sister Supporter provided council with background relating to the submitted petition and reported that the petition was being presented on behalf of 3395 signatories.

The Chairman asked Members to raise any questions of clarification.

Councillor Bobbie Dove, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services addressed the Cabinet advising that following concerns raised a Portfolio Holder decision had recently been made to go out to public consultation on a proposed PSPO which would provide a buffer zone, and that this will be subject to a 6-week consultation which will commence on 20 July 2022.

In relation to this Councillor Millie Earl addressed council advising that whilst a motion had originally been tabled that as the proposed PSPO was going out to consultation that she wished to withdraw the motion and looked forward to the official consultation.

Council agreed to the withdrawal of the motion.

Councillor Bobbie Dove proposed the following recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Nicola Greene.

RESOLVED that Council thank Councillor Earl for bringing forward the motion and that the Portfolio Holder decision be endorsed.

Voting For – 62, Against – 0, Abstentions - 1

21. Recommendations from Cabinet, the Leader and other Committees

Item 7a – Cabinet 25 May 2022 – Minute No 7 – Harbourside Park – Strategic Infrastructure Improvements to the Sluice Channel Linking Poole Park and Poole Harbour

Councillor Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place presented the report on the Harbourside Park and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

During debate Members whilst supporting the work discussed matters relating to the funding coming from CIL rather than the futures fund and stressed the importance of coordinating work with Wessex Water to ensure the drainage issues were addressed.

RESOLVED that Council approved the use of £1.239 million of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to Environment to detail design, obtain consents, and construct the sluice channel replacement and sluice gate upgrade and other associated activities as required to deliver the project to completion.

Voting: Unanimous

Item 7b – Cabinet 25 May 2022 – Minute No 8 – Our Museum: Poole Museum Estate Redevelopment Programme

Councillor Dunlop, Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Culture and Vibrant Places presented the report on the Poole Museum Estate Redevelopment Programme and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members welcomed the scheme overall whilst some members expressed concern with regards to the additional expenditure.

RESOLVED that Council approved an increase in the capital budget of up to £1.41m for the Poole Museum Programme which is to be funded by: -

(a) Grant income of £0.23m from Historic England

(b) CIL funding of £0.5m

(c) Prudential Borrowing of £0.69m

Voting: 62:1 (1 abstention)

Councillor Rachel Maidment arrived at 8.07 pm

Item 7c – Cabinet 22 June 2022 – Minute No 15 – 2021/22 Outturn Report

The Leader of the Council presented the report on the 2021/22 Outturn report and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members highlighted areas of concern relating to the increased deficit and risk the council is under and in addition discussion took place on areas within the report including the pay and reward strategy which it was felt should have been resolved by now and the additional money going into adult social care.

RESOLVED that Council: -

(a) approved that the final revenue surplus for the year of £6.8 million is added to financial resilience reserve with the extra £3.5m not assumed in the 2022/23 budget being used to mitigate the emerging inflationary cost of living pressures; and

(b) approved the capital virement as set out in paragraph 97.

Note – resolution (c) was determined by Cabinet.

Voting: 60:0 4 abstentions

Item 7d – Cabinet 22 June 2022 – Minute No 16 – Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update

The Leader of the Council presented the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update report and outlined the recommendations set out on the agenda.

Members were informed that there had been a long and detailed debate at Scrutiny. Further to this Councillor Hilliard advised that he welcomed the transparency and openness but requested that consideration be given to

holding the budget café in September/ October with a further café being held in February to address the progress.

Members raised concerns with regards to the level of borrowing and associated risks. In addition, issues were raised in relation to customer services where it was highlighted that the systems don't seem to be working correctly, the flexibility of capital receipts and the issues surrounding second homes.

RESOLVED that Council approve the second homes premium and revisions to empty homes premium subject to their confirmation via the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

Note – recommendations (a) to (e) were determined by the Cabinet.

Voting: 36: 21 (abstentions 6)

7e – Cabinet 22 June 2022 – Minute No 17 – BCP FuturePlaces Ltd – Revised Business Plan and Funding Mechanism

Councillor Philip Broadhead, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration presented the report on the BCP FuturePlaces Ltd – Revised Business Plan and Funding Mechanism and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members raised a number of issues including expressing concern with regards to the lack of transparency and the complexity that is introduced by the setting up of a separate organisation.

Councillor Julie Bagwell left the meeting at 9.04 pm

Councillor Chris Rigby proposed the following amendment to the report:

“remove the wording ‘if appropriate’ from paragraph 13 of page 168 of the report so the last sentence reads – ‘This income flow will enable FuturePlaces to repay its debt.’”

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Vikki Slade.

Clarification was sought in terms of which recommendation the amendment referred to and Members were advised that recommendation (b) be approved subject to the deletion of the words ‘if appropriate’ within paragraph 13.

Councillor Anne Filer left the room at 9:20 pm and re-joined the meeting at 9.26 pm.

The Portfolio Holder advised that he was happy with the suggested word removal.

RESOLVED that Council: -

- (a) approved an increase in the working capital loan facility to £8m (from £400k) to support BCP FuturePlaces Ltd from July 2022; and**
- (b) approve the revised BCP FuturePlaces Ltd Business Plan attached to the report and the confidential Appendix 1 subject to**

the removal or the words ‘if appropriate’ within paragraph 13 of the report as set out above.

Note – resolutions (c) and (d) were determined by Cabinet.

Voting: 33: 27 (3 abstentions)

The Leader and the Deputy Leader of Council were granted with dispensations from the Chief Executive in accordance with the relevant legislation by virtue of their directorships on companies in relation to this item and were therefore able to participate in the discussion and voting thereon.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.28 pm and reconvened at 9.39 pm

7f – Cabinet 22 June 2022 – Minute No 19 – Cemetery Regulations and Cemetery Fees Harmonisation for BCP Council Cemeteries

Councillor Mark Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place presented the report on the Cemetery Regulations and Cemetery Fees Harmonisation and outlined the recommendations as set out on the agenda.

Members discussed a number of matters including issues relating to space and the rules and regulations relating to the scattering of ashes.

RESOLVED that Council: -

- (a) adopted the harmonised and updated Cemetery Rules and Regulations for all nine cemeteries to be adopted from 01 September 2022; and**
- (b) adopted the harmonised cemetery fees for all nine cemeteries to be adopted from 01 September 2022.**

Vote: Unanimous

Councillor Tony Trent joined the meeting at 9.50 pm

7g – The Leader 27 June 2022 – Disposal of 21 Mill Lane

The Leader of the Council presented the report on the Disposal of 21 Mill Lane and outlined the recommendations as set on the agenda.

Members were advised that options had been explored and that money would be going back into the school system.

Members questioned why the house couldn't be used for social housing and in relation to this were advised that this had been questioned at the time but that this was the best option.

In addition Members raised the matter of the sale of the property and questioned why it was only marketed with one agent. In relation to this the Leader acknowledged the point and advised that this would be taken forwards to see if it is possible to change the process going forwards.

RESOLVED that Council: -

- (a) agreed to the disposal of 21 Mill Lane, as outlined in red on the attached plan in Appendix 2, for the purchase price detailed in the confidential appendix to the report;**
- (b) delegates authority to the Corporate Property Officer to finalise the detailed terms of the disposal.**

Vote: 37:5 (19 abstention)

22. Appointment of Council Representative to Dorset Pension Fund Committee

Councillor John Beesley, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee requested that Council approve the change in Council representation on the Dorset Pension Fund Committee which is consistent with the current political balance of the Council.

RESOLVED that Councillor Toby Johnson replace Councillor Bobbie Dove as the BCP Council representative on the Dorset Pension Fund.

Voting: Nem. Con

23. Notices of Motion in accordance with Procedure Rule 9

A – Barclays – Paris Agreement

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Councillor Felicity Rice and seconded by Councillor Chris Rigby:

BCP council has declared a climate and ecological emergency. The towns of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are at significant risk from sea level rise caused by global heating. Financial institutes are able to influence future global heating through their policies which should align with the Paris Agreement. We call on Barclays, as our banking provider and partner, to work with us to protect the inhabitants of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole by adopting climate policies that are acknowledged to be in keeping with the Paris Agreement.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Felicity Rice asked that words 'with us' be removed from the printed motion.

Council were requested to vote to approve the amendment to the motion.

RESOLVED that Council agree to the amended wording of the motion.

Voting: Nem. Con

Councillor Daniel Butt and Councillor Judy Butt left the meeting at 10.02 pm.

Councillor Rice spoke to the motion as amended following which Councillor Rigby spoke in support having seconded the motion.

Members spoke in support of the motion with the proposer expressing thanks to the Portfolio Holder for supporting the motion.

RESOLVED that Council supports the motion as amended.

Voting: Unanimous

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12 of the Meeting Procedure Rules was moved by Councillor Rice and seconded by Councillor Chris Rigby:

B – Fair Trade

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 12 of the Meeting Procedure Rules and was moved by Councillor Chris Rigby and seconded by Councillor Jackie Edwards.

BCP Council supports the principles of Fair Trade and, as an important consumer, the promotion and purchase of Fair Trade goods as part of our commitment to sustainable development.

The Council resolves:

- 1. To offer Fair Trade goods - for example products carrying the Fairtrade Mark wherever possible and available, when catering for Council meetings and functions.**
- 2. To implement Fair Trade through our procurement processes and those of our suppliers wherever possible.**
- 3. To appoint a named Council representative to support the work of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Fairtrade Steering Group and to make other staff and resources available as and when appropriate and available.**
- 4. To promote Fair Trade issues and practices among local business, commercial and other organisations.**
- 5. To support the Group's communication plan.**
- 6. To share best practice with regard to Fair Trade and sustainable development with other public bodies, stakeholders and partners.**
- 7. To work with the Steering Group to ensure that BCP meets and exceeds the requirements necessary to maintain its status as a Fairtrade Zone.**

RESOLVED that Council supports the motion.

Voting: Unanimous

Councillor Nigel Brooks left the meeting at 10.10 pm

24. Questions from Councillors

Question from Councillor Lesley Dedman

‘Last week there was wholesale destruction of the habitat of Jesmond Wood in Highcliffe, a treasured area of green and established woodland which the residents value highly.

We have been told by the developer that this was to facilitate the pegging out for the plans he recently put into our BCP Planning Office for housing.

To pursue this aim, the developer has put in bulldozers and devastated the whole area. Trees, grasses and bushes have been removed, and this has devastated the wildlife which was previously there in abundance. Jesmond wood is now a pitiful sight, a wasteland where before there was life. Our residents are appalled. It is an environmental disaster.

Can you tell me what requests were made by BCP planning department before Mr Bulstrode caused the land to be cleared last week?’

Response by Councillor Bobbie Dove, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Thank you for the question. I was very disappointed to see the extent of clearance undertaken at Jesmond Wood. For the avoidance of doubt the BCP Planning department has never asked for, suggested, or endorsed, any clearance should take place at the site. The planning department requested only that some plots were pegged out to further assess impacts on protected trees. Pegging out is a common practice and appropriate to consider on sites such as Jesmond Wood where there are many protected trees that could be affected by development. There are many ways to ‘peg out’ a site which would not result in the extent of clearance seen at this site. At no point as part of this request was there any suggestion that the planning department would support any clearance in order for the pegging out to happen.

The prospective developer of the site therefore made the decision to undertake the clearance on their own volition. I am very disappointed that the developer has linked the request for pegging to the clearance that has since been carried out, as at no stage have the Planning department requested any clearance to take place.

Officers within the Council will be assisting the Police fully in their separate investigation into the matter. The planning department is also writing to Mr Bulstrode to remind him, as a responsible landowner, to ensure that this site is managed in a way that reflects its status as a sensitive location with high amenity value to local residents.

Question from Councillor Tony Trent

The original plan to separate the civic part of Poole Civic Centre from the rest of the building, the “vertical slice” work, which was to commence after Mayor Making and take around six months, was put on ice without consultation with interested parties. The “vertical slice” plan was to leave the two chambers (Council Chamber, Cattistock Room, the Mayor’s

Parlour, secure storage, and a small function room, as well as rooms to support the Coroners function, in future use.

Could the Leader of the Council explain what has happened? and when this essential work to secure the future of the listed area of this building, and the functions it supports, will take place?

Public assurances were given by the Leader and/or Deputy Leader on a public social media site that this building was safe, and that the proposal was being developed (as it was under the previous Leader of BCP Council) to ensure the building was preserved. Can the Leader of BCP Council re-state his assurances? And give a time scale within which the work needed to secure the building will take place?

Response by Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council

The council decision to retain a “vertical slice” of Poole Civic Centre (that encompasses the principal listed and heritage elements) for the purposes of accommodating coroner and mayoralty functions remains in place. The project has not been shelved and the budget remains as an approved element within the Council’s capital programme. Notwithstanding this, since the decision was made to retain this “vertical slice” an opportunity to consider a hotel option for the wider civic centre site has come forward. The Council’s Future Places team have been exploring the potential for this option through further investigations, including soft market testing. If that work supports a case for changing the extant decision, the appropriate process will then be followed. It is currently anticipated that Cabinet will receive a further update on this matter in the Autumn. In the meantime, the project is simply on hold whilst the feasibility work is concluded.

With respect to the safety and preservation of the building, appropriate measures are in place to maintain its security whilst its future is determined. Furthermore, regardless of the outcome of the ongoing feasibility work the building’s listed status will ensure that its important architectural contribution to Poole’s landscape will be maintained for the future.

The preservation of the historical rooms has been made abundantly clear to future places, it is something that absolutely must be maintained and is non negotiable redline, which I will point out wouldn’t have been the case under the lib dem led unity alliance administration. I’m happy to put once again on the record that this administration will not be selling Poole Civic as part of a panicked fire sale of assets, they have inherited from the lib dem unity alliance who were planning on selling off the Civic centre.

Question from Councillor Stephen Bartlett

Does the Leader agree with me that where the Constitution requires a decision to be made by full council, that such a decision when made, can only be rescinded, or altered by a subsequent full council decision, unless this is agreed as part of the original decision?

Response by Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council

Thank you for your question. Notwithstanding statutory requirements or constitutional provisions (including for example matters of urgency), I do

agree with your assumption regarding the decision-making process as outlined. Formal key decisions as outlined in the Constitution can only be taken by Full Council, circumstances often change after decisions have been taken, but any changes which alter a key decision still have to pass through the relevant gateways.

Question from Councillor L-J Evans

Earlier this year I met with members of the Parkstone branch of the Rotary Club. The club celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2021 and wanted to provide a bench on the pavement outside Poole Hospital (Longfleet Roadside) to commemorate this. They have contacted BCP Council to try to arrange this on numerous occasions, to no avail. When I chased up the matter on their behalf, I received the following response from an Officer: “Whilst I understand the need for a bench outside the hospital, unfortunately I am unable to deal with your enquiry as the bench scheme is currently closed to new enquiries and is under review to amalgamate the 3 policies to determine a single harmonised policy.

This is completely unacceptable. Having somewhere to sit is important for those with frailty and reduced mobility. It gives people a place to wait and encourages walking by ensuring a rest-stop is available. If residents and charities are willing to supply benches in suitable public spaces, surely the Council should be enabling this to happen as quickly as possible?

Please can the Portfolio Holder advise when the policies will be harmonised, the scheme reopened and how long it will take to deal with the backlog?

Response by Councillor Mark Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place

We appreciate the impact the delay in launching a BCP commemorative bench programme is having to a small number of interested parties. The service has corresponded directly with the Rotary Club in detail and explained other options currently available at this time. It is very much our commitment to launch a BCP service indeed it has been the subject of a workstream from our Future Parks Accelerator Programme, whereby the service has been exploring future wider commemorative package opportunities such as, trees, plaques, benches, planters, donations to public buildings e.g. pavilions, the aviary, open space improvements etc

Specifically with reference to commemorative benches a key requirement is the need to replace the three legal agreements, all with different VAT tax implications, different agreement lengths, multiple bench options and pricing structures to provide a single unified offer across the conurbation for all. Furthermore, there is a need to address the legacy of existing benches that now have out of date correspondence addresses to confirm ongoing funding renewal commitments for maintenance to a) ensure maintenance income budgets are sufficient for the task and b) help determine locations re-available to interested parties.

We are endeavouring to relaunch by the end of 2022 when we will contact anyone who has asked to be kept updated on the scheme.

Question from Councillor Richard Burton

My residents often comment to me about the condition of the walkways and paths within the ward. I believe we can all agree that having well maintained and visually pleasing walkways promotes active travel and a pride in the area. Could the Portfolio holder tell me what impact the Cleaner, Greener, Safer campaign, that went to Cabinet 29 September 2021, has had on footpaths, pavements and alleyways so far this year?

Response by Councillor Nicola Greene, Portfolio Holder for Council Priorities and Delivery

I'd like to thank Councillor Burton for his question, and it couldn't be more pertinent at this time of year as vegetation is growing almost in front of our eyes.

There is always a tension between those who wish to see our verges and walkways trimmed to bowling green level, and those who wish nature to have a free hand; and I hope that our general consensus is that the sensible approach lies somewhere between the two. I'm also very grateful to Councillor Burton for making explicit the link between a well maintained and safe road and footway network; and encouraging cycling and walking.

BCP's 780 miles of roads and footpaths are inspected via our Highway Inspectors to determine the degree of risk and therefore determine an appropriate response for defects.

The Council has a twice-yearly weed treatment programme for roads and footpaths, with the first treatment cycle nearing completion. When treated, weeds don't die back straightaway and it can take several weeks for the full effect to be seen, and the herbicide will only treat the green weeds which are growing at the time of treatment. Following on from rules which govern the use of herbicide – and in keeping with the declaration of the climate emergency – the Council now uses less aggressive methods than in the past, and this necessarily impacts on how many weeds continue to grow.

Our grass cutting policy has developed well beyond the one size fits all approach of the past and is now informed by feedback from residents and park and playground users. You will see that some areas are left to grow for biodiversity gain, but the margins mowed whereas areas near playgrounds and of high footfall are kept shorter.

Our grass cutting team has been supplemented by four new members of staff, and we have funded and are looking to recruit another six. They are currently cutting the grass and will be moving on to clearing vegetation once the season finishes.

In the event that you or your residents in Bearwood and Merley have a concern about any particular road, verge or footpath, I would urge you to report it via the link I will circulate later via Democratic Services.

<https://online.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/services/parkshedgesbushesgrass/>

<https://online.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/services/highwaydefect/>

In terms of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer pilots in the three town centres, significant work has been started and continues – working with our three BIDs to target deep cleanses, increased numbers of cleansing operatives, the deployment of CSAS officers, replacement litter bins, repainting of street furniture and road linings and the provision of floral planters. The impact on our town centres has been noticed by many residents and visitors, and we are ambitious to roll out these improvements into our district centres once resources and staffing allow.

We are working with volunteers and communities to support Council action so that everyone can play a part in keeping our environment, clean, green and safe. The campaign is supported by a wide range of volunteers which we hope to continue to grow to enhance supported community led action.

Question from Councillor Vikki Slade

It was reported on 6th May 2022 that the developer Fortitudo had secured planning permission to demolish Barclays House. It was revealed on 2nd June 2022 that BCP Council had entered an exclusivity period to purchase the site and on 8th June the figure of £17m was reported as the bid from the council, almost three times higher than the bid made by the local developer.

Councillors were advised on 24th June that the chief executive had signed an officer decision to commit almost £200,000 in due diligence for surveys and valuations for the site.

Can the leader please advise on what date the council started to negotiate on this site and on what date the offer was made, why it took at least three weeks from the offer being publicised for this decision to spend this money to be shared with elected members and why the council would be considering use of the site for council offices when we are just completing a multi-million pound renovation project on the offices in Bournemouth to site our offices there?

Response by Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council

Upon receipt of the marketing details an Asset Investment Panel meeting was held on 27 April to discuss this opportunity and consider the strategic regeneration and operational uses it could support. Barclays sought final indicative non-binding offers by 13 May 2022.

It was noted that the timescales were very tight and would only allow limited diligence to be carried out before indicative offers were to be submitted, and therefore long-term uses were only considered in principle, including the possible opportunity to relocate our main administration functions to the building given its proximity to the railway station and other public transport routes. However, given the timescales and the nature of the outline offer requirements no formal decisions were taken, or sought, regarding long-term uses beyond that indicative discussion.

As part of the offer process BCP Council requested a period of exclusivity to give the opportunity for more detailed consideration. The delay in the publishing of the officer decision record was because we were waiting to get the exclusivity agreement signed with Barclays before we committed

the budget to the due diligence, this was to mitigate the risk of Barclays continuing to negotiate with other third parties and putting us at greater risk of abortive costs.

The exclusively period will enable the Council to complete the due diligence, finalise an offer, should it be considered appropriate to proceed, and seek the necessary Cabinet and Council approvals by 10 November 2022. Any formal decision to proceed with this acquisition would require a series of formal decisions which will need to be taken through the appropriate routes, including Cabinet and Council meetings.

It is also worth highlighting that at the point of submitting an indicative non-binding offer BCP Council were obviously not aware of other parties' interest, or their offers, and Barclays have not formally disclosed any other offers that were received. Any discussion of alternative offers is therefore speculation as we do not know the amounts offered or any conditionality that was attached to them.

Question from Councillor Lesley Dedman

Olympic Legacy Path, Mudeford Quay to Avon Beach

During the 2012 Olympics held in Great Britain, sailing teams trained on Gundimore Beach, which was adapted to facilitate their access.

At that time, as a legacy to thank Christchurch residents, funding was given for a path between the Quay and Avon Beach which allowed people to walk actually on the beach, and enjoy the sea and sand, with the health benefits of the ozone and closeness to the water, rather than on the sea defence path which has a substantial, high wall on the seaside.

Since 2020, this path has not been cleared, or swept by BCP council. It has thus become covered with sand and does not fulfil the purpose of the Olympic Legacy of providing a more health-giving walk for our community and visitors, especially those who need to come on to the beach via wheeled buggies, or pushchairs. There is now no way of them getting on to the beach path for an invigorating walk in the way that had been intended.

Our community find this concerning.

Can you tell me what is the plan for maintaining our Avon Beach Olympic Legacy Path in future?

Response by Councillor Mark Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place

Chairman,

I would like to thank Cllr Dedman for her question, Unfortunately I am not King Canute, and I can't hold back the tide. This path was positioned in an area that is impossible to maintain, it was constantly undermined and eroded or covered in sand.

The decision was taken to start to remove it on the 19th of December 2019 as the path had become a health and safety hazard with reinforcement being exposed. The cost of the work on Gundimore path in 2019 alone was £18, 485.

The reality is that there is excellent access to the adjacent beaches as the wall in question is not a long one, so trying to keep a structure that is not sustainable in that position isn't viable.

This path is one very small part of the coastal protection work that the FCERM team are currently doing along the entire Christchurch Bay and Harbour area.

To get an understanding of the history of the path I talked to Christchurch staff who were involved in the path, here are a few of the responses.

"The path was created in Sept/Oct 2009 and extended/tied in to the Gundimore sea wall apron in Feb 2010. Its construction was of wood form work tied with steel rod reinforcement on top of a layer of hardcore with a crushed Limestone top surface.

Prior to BCP, the Christchurch beaches and beach paths rarely received any mechanical clearing/intervention. Christchurch Council did not have ready access to tractors/sweepers as BCP Council have now with Seafront Services. It would also be hard to sweep a crushed limestone path on a sand/shingle beach.

Following multiple attempts to protect and repair the path, the path was finally cut back, and the undermined sections removed and made safe on 19th December 2019."

And another made the following remarks

"The path was regularly getting damaged, needing repairs and there was even an attempt to place rock armour in front of it to protect from wave attack. The reality is that the design was only really suitable as a temporary measure for the Olympics and would never last any length of time. A couple of years ago the damage was so bad that steel reinforcement was completely exposed and bent up so that it presented a significant health and safety hazard. Therefore, the decision was made to remove it, which we'd have to do even if replacing it.

If the path is to be replaced, it would not be suitable to simply place a slab on top of beach crest as was done before, otherwise we'd be in the same position of having to constantly repair it as well as regular trip/spiking hazards. In an environment where wave attack is present, we'd need to build a significant structure instead which would cost £100ks. But the question is why you would want that when there is a perfectly good path behind and excellent access for wheelchair users just along the coast in a safer environment. The beach crest in that location is dynamic, so unsuitable for path surfacing unless a properly founded structure is constructed to place a path on top."

And a final comment

"Yeah, that was a constant battle for us. We cleared it a couple of times by hand which wasn't easy as it's a crushed limestone path, Ben Feeney did some good work down there, but the expectation always exceeded reality,

It's also really vulnerable to wave erosion at the western (Mudeford) end, there were timber revetments holding the path in place which routinely had to be replaced so I don't think a 'harder' surface would last much longer

anyway. The irony was that it was intended to be an Olympic legacy site *if* we had been chosen to host one of the minor countries sailing teams and we got funding to support it, but we didn't get chosen!

As it stands today the prescribed easy-access route from Mudeford Quay to Avon is along the promenade (behind the wave wall) which is a tarmac surface and well protected. The parallel beach-level path is a 'nice-to-have' route but it's not essential, therefore we could consider decommissioning it on safety grounds and taking it out, restoring the beach back to its natural state."

I also have some picture which I will share with the Clerk and Cllr Dedman showing the damage over the years.

Finally, just to reassure Cllr Dedman that FCERM have since LGR spent money on Christchurch, here are some of the projects being carried out to support Christchurch in addition to the Gundimore path work I have already mentioned.

- Christchurch Rowing Club revetment – Installation of Bodpave pavement on slipway
- M12 groyne marker removal
- Rock groyne repairs between Avon beach & Highcliffe Beach
- Rock armour reinforcement at Steam Point path
- Beach recycling between Avon Beach & Friars Cliff Beach, and at Highcliffe Beach
- Rock groyne repairs at Mudeford Sandbank
- Gabion basket repairs at Double Dykes, near Hengistbury Head (although not Christchurch project, it protects the sandbank on the Southern shore of Christchurch harbour)
- Christchurch Quay Wall – Emergency stabilisation works
- Convent Walk – Riverside wall/path repairs
- Mudeford Quay – Harbourside wall repairs
- Stanpit Marsh flap valve replacement
- Christchurch Bay and Harbour Strategy (halfway through delivery)

Broader projects benefitting Christchurch (which are ongoing)

- Dorset Coastal Asset Database (to inspect, record and make maintenance recommendations for all coastal flood and erosion risk assets)
- Durlston to Hurst Sediment Resource Management Programme
- Hengistbury Head Long Groyne works

The cost of these schemes is almost £1 million pounds and rising.

25. Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution

The Chairman advised that there were no urgent decisions to be reported.

The meeting ended at 10.46 pm

CHAIRMAN

CABINET

Report subject	Harmonising Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
Meeting date	27 July 2022
Status	Public
Executive summary	<p>The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a levy that local authorities can charge on development in their area. CIL income can be used to contribute towards the funding of infrastructure needed to support new development.</p> <p>BCP Council currently operates three legacy approaches in the implementation of the levy. This report and accompanying appendices are looking to harmonise these legacy approaches to deliver a single policy approach to be implemented across the charging authority area. These policy changes will be implemented as part of the Planning Harmonisation and Improvement Project.</p> <p>Internal auditors have reviewed the current CIL processes and identified a series of actions. The response to these actions is set out in the report, with many actions already implemented or in the process of being implemented through the Planning Harmonisation and Improvement Project. Cabinet is asked to note the progress against these actions.</p> <p>Officers will prepare a CIL guidance note for applicants, to reflect the recommendations below. This will ensure that the current three ways of working are harmonised into a single BCP Council approach.</p> <p>Cabinet is also asked to note that requests from the NHS to fund infrastructure projects will be kept under review, given the current demand on CIL funding.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet recommend to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approval of the proposed BCP CIL Instalment Policy; b) Approval of the proposed BCP CIL Payment in Kind Policy; and c) Approval of the BCP CIL Discretionary Relief Statement.
Reason for recommendations	<p>To adhere to the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended).</p> <p>To ensure CIL audit recommendations are followed up and implemented.</p> <p>To ensure applicants are fully aware of the CIL process and the necessary steps to follow.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Philip Broadhead – Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration Councillor Bobby Dove – Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons – Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Luke Bennett – Senior Planning Officer Steve Dring – Planning Policy Manager
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a levy that local authorities can charge on development in their area. CIL income can be used to contribute towards the funding of infrastructure needed to support new development. BCP Council currently operates three legacy approaches in the implementation of the levy.
2. Planning is currently undergoing a Planning Harmonisation and Improvement Project to harmonise the three legacy processes into a single improved process. The focus of the Project is to implement a single planning software system later this year. Ahead of the launch of the new software several processes need Cabinet approval as they will necessitate a change in policy. This report seeks to harmonise the CIL policies for the BCP Council area.
3. The CIL policies are the operational policies we use to collect CIL. The operation of CIL was subject to a review from Internal Audit. This review made recommendations to ensure that the CIL process is transparent and fit for purpose. To assist meeting these recommendations this report seeks to harmonise the CIL policies across the BCP Council area. The harmonisation of the CIL policies will allow for fairness and equality within the planning department's implementation of CIL across the authority area providing a better planning service for all.
4. It is proposed that the CIL policies outlined within this report will be implemented when a new single Planning software system becomes operational later in the year, as they are intrinsically linked.
5. This report does not propose changes to the three legacy charging schedules that set out the types of development and rates per square metre. Whereas the decision to harmonise CIL policies can be agreed by Cabinet and Council, the CIL Charging Schedule must go through statutory consultation and examination.
6. The timetable for a new BCP wide CIL Charging Schedule follows the BCP Local Plan process and is set out in the Draft Local Development Scheme (2022) – see separate Cabinet report:
 - Autumn 2023: Consultation on Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (Reg 15)
 - Winter 2023: Publication of Draft Charging Schedule (Reg 16)
 - Spring 2024: Draft Charging Schedule Submitted for Examination (Reg 19)

- Summer 2024: Examination (Reg 23)
- Winter 2024: Adoption of the Charging Schedule (Reg 25)

CIL Draft Instalment Policy

7. Regulation 69B of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) states that a charging authority which wishes to allow persons liable to pay CIL to do so by instalments must publish on its website an instalment policy.
8. An instalment policy was adopted by each of the legacy authorities outlining the phasing and timescales for payment. We propose using the Poole and Christchurch approach as a basis moving forward with the addition of CIL payments under £10,000 to be paid in full. This is set out in the CIL Draft Instalment Policy in Appendix 1. Bournemouth's legacy approach for payments over £75,000 requires 3 instalments to be paid over 360 days whereas this will now be aligned to 4 instalments over 720 days, allowing applicants and developers more time to pay these higher amounts.
9. The introduction of a minimum threshold of £10,000 will remove additional work for officers in splitting up smaller payments into instalments. Developers will have 60 days from commencement of the works to pay the amount in full up to £10,000.

CIL Draft Payment in Kind Policy

10. There may be circumstances where the charging authority and the person liable for the levy will wish land and/or infrastructure to be provided, instead of money, to satisfy a charge arising from the levy. Regulation 73B of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) states that a charging authority which wishes to allow infrastructure payments in its area must publish a policy document which sets out the conditions in detail.
11. Christchurch was the only legacy authority to state that payment in kind was a possible means of settling the levy. Bournemouth and Poole remained silent on the matter neither confirming nor denying whether payment in kind would be accepted.
12. The proposal is to allow payment in kind across the BCP Council area and this is set out in the CIL Draft Payment in Kind Policy in Appendix 2.
13. There may be time, cost and efficiency benefits for the charging authority in accepting completed infrastructure from the party liable for payment of the levy. Payment in kind can also enable developers, users and authorities to have more certainty about the timescale over which certain infrastructure items will be delivered.

CIL Draft Discretionary Relief Statement

14. It is proposed that a policy for discretionary charitable relief, discretionary social housing relief or discretionary relief for exceptional circumstances is not adopted by BCP Council. Only the mandatory forms of relief shall be applied, and claims submitted for discretionary relief will not be considered. The CIL Draft Discretionary Relief policy is set out in Appendix 3.
15. Poole was the only legacy authority that previously made discretionary relief available. Since the original adoption of CIL in Poole on 2 January 2013 not a single claim for

discretionary relief has been made as the mandatory forms of relief have been sufficient to meet the needs of the applicants.

CIL Audit Recommendations

16. Internal Audit have made the following recommendations to improve the operation of CIL in the BCP Council area. Some of the recommendations have already been implemented others are dependent upon the outcome of Smarter Structures and the implementation of Planning Harmonisation and Improvement Project.

Recommendation R3 - An independent officer reviews all planning applications received and confirms they have been assessed, invoiced and coded correctly and in a timely manner, including checks on exemptions awarded.

17. Work towards this recommendation is ongoing with the legacy arrangements in place. There is now one CIL/Planning Obligations Team but where it sits is to be determined through a wider service restructure. The team currently sits within Business Support through Smarter Structures. The CIL checking process will be simplified by the implementation of the new Planning software system later this year (2022) as all officers will be operating on one system.

Recommendation R4 - Formal processes are determined and documented for the monitoring of overdue CIL monies and escalation and authorisation of CIL enforcement decisions.

18. The CIL/Planning Obligations Team carry out the day-to-day monitoring with formal procedures outlined within Appendix F of the BCP Debt Management Policy (April 2022 – see Appendix 5 of this report). In relation to this some CIL forms and notices are currently published online and attributed to the relevant application. A full review of all CIL forms and notices suitable for publication online will be carried out and effective from the implementation of the new Planning software system later this year as per recommendation R3.

Recommendation R5 - In line with the CIL Regulations 2010, interest on late payments across all geographic areas of the council should be applied at the nationally set rate of 2.5% above the Bank of England base rate.

19. Interest on late payments across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is applied at the nationally set rate of 2.5% above the Bank of England base rate, and this interest is applied at the same time as the surcharge is raised.

Recommendation R6 - The structure of the CIL/Planning Obligations Team is reviewed to ensure operational management arrangements are in place.

20. There is now one CIL/Planning Obligations Team with interim operational management allocated to the Interim Planning Policy Manager. The structure of the Contributions Team is subject to ongoing review through Smarter Structures and is to be determined.

Recommendation R7 - Future CIL spending priorities are formally considered and endorsed for detailed inclusion in the 2020/21 Infrastructure Funding Statement.

21. A basic list of priorities is presented annually to the Future Infrastructure Programme Board for agreement and publication in the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). The IFS is to be published annually by 31 December reporting on expenditure from the previous financial year.

Recommendation R8 - A governance framework is implemented, including a documented decision-making process covering all aspects of CIL expenditure, corporate oversight and direction of CIL spend and a BCP Apportionments and Allocations policy, for agreement by relevant senior officers and Councillors.

22. The governance framework sees CIL Admin (5%), Neighbourhood Portion (15 or 25%) and Harbour and Heathland Mitigation top sliced from CIL. The allocation of Neighbourhood Portion (NP) funds is determined by the CIL NP Allocations Panel with the Strategic funds allocated by the Future Infrastructure Programme Board in accordance with the types of infrastructure listed in the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). This framework is now operational providing a documented decision-making process for all CIL expenditure and providing oversight / direction of spend with spending outlined annually in the Council's IFS. With this framework now operational and transparent there is no longer a need for a separate BCP Apportionments and Allocations policy.

Recommendation R9 - The budget holder liaises with Accountancy annually to consider the application and use of the CIL Administration Fund, including whether all applicable costs have been identified.

23. Finance provide quarterly updates on the CIL Admin position to the Head of Planning and these funds are allocated accordingly to the administration of CIL.

CIL Guide for Applicants

24. There are currently three legacy CIL guides for applicants on the BCP website for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole respectively. As part of the harmonisation of CIL it is proposed that one guidance document is produced including all relevant information and signposting for applicants with development liable to pay CIL, including the recommendations proposed in this report. Links to the existing guides are available in the background papers at the end of the report.

Contributions to NHS infrastructure

25. The Systems Leadership Team of the 'Our Dorset' integrated health care system set up a task and finish group to explore the potential for CIL to fund National Health Service (NHS) healthcare infrastructure. The findings identified a cost per dwelling to cover the impact of an increase in population upon health care infrastructure. Whilst the Council welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with the NHS to deliver infrastructure there are insufficient CIL funds available currently to fund essential Council infrastructure as well as funding NHS infrastructure. This will remain under review and future funding of NHS infrastructure projects will continue to be explored.

Options Appraisal

26. The following Options have been set out with regards to the harmonisation of CIL policies and procedures. While a mix and match of the recommendations is possible for simplicity just two options have been set out within this report:

Option 1 – Continue with existing policies and procedures from legacy authorities

Option 2 – Adopt the proposed new BCP wide policies and procedures set out in this report

Option 1 Advantages:

- Applicants and developers who are regular users of the planning service are aware of the legacy policies and procedures for the three areas.

Option 1 Disadvantages:

- Three different approaches across a multitude of CIL processes within one charging authority area will be confusing for applicants and developers.
- Onerous on Council Officer time for those working across the three areas to ensure the three different processes are followed.
- Lack of ownership on the policies and procedures from BCP Council.
- Enforcing and adhering to three legacy approaches can be time consuming and delay the planning process.

27. Option 2 Advantages:

- One uniformed approach will simplify the process for Council Officers and applicants alike removing unnecessary delays in the planning process.
- Provides clear direction from the Council to the applicant.
- The best elements of the legacy approaches will be taken forward in the new BCP-wide approach.
- The changes are not drastic so will be simple for applicants and developers to come to terms with.

Option 2 Disadvantages:

- Familiarisation period for applicants and developers to get used to new policies and processes.
27. Option 2 is recommended. The harmonisation of the legacy approaches concerning the policies and processes involved in the operational delivery of CIL is fundamental to providing applicants and developers with the best service possible and allowing Council Officers to administer the levy effectively.

Summary of financial implications

28. The CIL instalment policy will allow the larger payments to be made proportionally over an extended period. On the other hand, the introduction of a threshold will reduce the time period before the payment is due in full.
29. The adoption of a CIL payment in kind policy will allow the applicant to mitigate the impact of their development with land and/or infrastructure, instead of money, to satisfy a charge arising from the levy. For example, where an authority has already planned to invest levy receipts in a project there may be time, cost and efficiency benefits in accepting completed infrastructure from the party liable for payment of the levy. Payment in kind can also enable developers, users and authorities to have more certainty about the timescale over which certain infrastructure items will be delivered.
30. It is proposed discretionary relief from CIL will not be made available as there are sufficient measures in place for mandatory relief as outlined within the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) for charities, social housing and self builds.
31. With regards to the CIL audit recommendations it has been agreed that interest on late payments across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is applied at the nationally set rate of 2.5% above the Bank of England base rate, and this interest is applied at the

same time as the surcharge is raised to ensure a consistent approach across the three areas.

32. Concerning the spending of Strategic CIL a basic list of priorities is presented to the Future Infrastructure Programme Board for agreement and publication in the Infrastructure Funding Statement published annually. The implemented governance framework also provides a documented decision-making process covering all aspects of CIL expenditure, corporate oversight and direction of CIL spend. As part of this the budget for the administration of CIL has been reviewed with the potential appointments of additional posts in the future CIL structure to be allocated from the Administration Fund. SVPP invoicing costs will be looked at going forward.

Summary of legal implications

33. Regulation 69B of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) states that a charging authority which wishes to allow persons liable to pay CIL to do so by instalments must publish on its website an instalment policy. Without an instalment policy it would not be possible to pay by instalments and therefore make the payment of CIL by applicants virtually impossible given the sums of money involved and the readiness of funds in relation to the chargeable development.
34. Regulation 73B of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) states that a charging authority which wishes to allow infrastructure payments in its area must publish a policy document which sets out the conditions in detail. Failure by the Council to do so would not make it possible to settle the levy through this means.

Summary of human resources implications

35. There is now one CIL/Planning Obligations Team with interim operational management allocated to the Planning Policy Manager. The structure of the CIL/Planning Obligations Team is subject to ongoing review and is yet to be determined. The review may result in potential appointments of additional posts, possibly including a team manager. Once this review has been completed as part of the wider restructure then there will be greater clarity from a human resources perspective with regards to job roles and team structure.

Summary of sustainability impact

36. The impact on sustainability in relation to climate change is negligible when considering the impact of the harmonisation of CIL processes. There would not be a negative impact regarding sustainability.

Summary of public health implications

37. There are no public health implications.

Summary of equality implications

38. There are no equality implications.
39. The proposed CIL harmonisation will ensure equality across the charging authority area with the same framework and processes being followed regardless of where in the charging authority area the application site may be located. The proportion of instalments and payment deadlines proposed through the draft instalment policy is aligned with the legacy Poole and Christchurch approaches (plus the addition of no

instalments for payments under £10,000), with only a slight alteration to the legacy Bournemouth approach. This is also to the benefit of the applicant allowing four instalments of payment for CIL charges over £75,000 over a longer period. Therefore, Bournemouth applicants are not unduly impacted by this change.

40. The draft discretionary relief statement proposes not to adopt a policy for discretionary charitable relief, discretionary social housing relief or discretionary relief for exceptional circumstances. Only the mandatory forms of relief shall be applied by BCP Council and claims submitted for discretionary relief will not be considered.
41. Regulation 43 of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) outlines the criteria necessary to obtain mandatory charitable exemption from paying CIL with the chargeable development to be used wholly or mainly for charitable purposes and directly facilitate the carrying out of the charitable institution's charitable purposes.
42. Mandatory social housing relief is a discount that can be applied to most social rent, affordable rent, and intermediate rent dwellings, provided by a local authority or private registered provider, and shared ownership dwellings. Subject to meeting specific conditions, social housing relief can also apply to discounted rental properties provided by bodies which are neither a local authority nor a private registered provider.
43. Mandatory social housing relief can also apply to dwellings where the first and subsequent sales are for no more than 70% of their market value ("First Homes"). Regulation 49 of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) defines where social housing relief applies.
44. Given the availability of these mandatory forms of relief from the levy there is not a need to also make discretionary relief available and charities or social housing providers will not be unduly affected by this.

Summary of risk assessment

45. The only notable possible risk is the change in some of the processes adopted by the legacy authorities as applicants accustomed to the legacy approaches will have to familiarise themselves with the new single approach. However, the changes are minimal and are tweaks as opposed to an overhaul. To mitigate this risk BCP Council will need to ensure that applicants are reasonably informed through signposting on the Council's website. Hence the need to produce a single BCP CIL guide for applicants.
46. Non-implementation of the recommendations would result in a much greater risk by delivering a disjointed approach across the charging authority area which could cause confusion and frustration amongst applicants, and an unnecessary burden on officer workloads in delivering three different legacy approaches.

Background papers

[BCP Council Debt Management Policy \(1st April 2022\)](#)
[Bournemouth CIL Guide for Applicants and Developers \(2017\)](#)
[Christchurch CIL Guide for Applicants and Developers \(2017\)](#)
[Poole CIL Guide for Applicants and Developers \(2014\)](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft BCP CIL Instalment Policy
Appendix 2 – Draft BCP CIL Payment in Kind Policy

- Appendix 3 – Draft BCP CIL Discretionary Relief Statement
- Appendix 4 – CIL Audit Recommendations Update
- Appendix 5 – Details of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Debt Recovery Procedure taken from Appendix F of the BCP Council Debt Management Policy (1st April 2022).

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Instalment Policy



Effective from 2022

CIL payments under £10,000

To be paid in full within 60 days of commencement (no instalments).

CIL payments between £10,000 and £75,000:

1 st	Instalment	25% payable by 60 days from commencement
2 nd	Instalment	75% payable by 360 days from commencement

CIL payments greater than £75,000:

1 st	Instalment	20% payable by 60 days from commencement
2 nd	Instalment	20% payable by 360 days from commencement
3 rd	Instalment	30% payable by 540 days from commencement
4 th	Instalment	30% payable by 720 days from commencement

Additional Information:

Where an outline planning permission permits development to be implemented in phases, each phase of the development is a separate chargeable development and will be collected in accordance with this Instalment Policy. Nothing in this Instalment Policy prevents the person with assumed liability to pay CIL, to pay the outstanding CIL (in whole or in part) in advance of the instalment period set out in this policy.

In accordance with Regulation 70 of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) the BCP CIL Instalment Policy will only apply where the Council has received a valid CIL Assumption of Liability form and CIL Commencement Notice prior to commencement of the chargeable development.

If either of the above requirements are not complied with, the total CIL liability will become payable immediately. In addition, surcharges will apply due to the CIL Assumption of Liability Form and / or the CIL Commencement Notice not being submitted to the Council prior to the commencement of the chargeable development.

Once the development has commenced, all CIL payments must be made in accordance with the CIL Instalment Policy. Where a payment is not received in full on or before the day on which it is due, the total CIL liability becomes payable in full immediately.

In summary, to benefit from the CIL Instalment Policy, the relevant forms must be submitted to the Council prior to the commencement of the chargeable development, and all payments must be paid in accordance with the CIL Instalment Policy.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Payment in Kind Policy



Effective from 2022

In accordance with Regulations 73, 73A, 73B and 74 of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) BCP Council as the charging authority for the area will allow the payment of CIL by land payments or infrastructure payments.

The infrastructure to be provided should be related to the provision of those types of infrastructure listed in the Council's most recent Infrastructure Funding Statement, and land should be used to provide or facilitate the provision of identified infrastructure to support the development of the charging authority's area.

Additional Information:

In most cases, CIL will be paid to the Council in the form of money. The CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) allow the Council as the CIL charging authority to introduce a policy which details alternatives to cash payments through the provision of land or infrastructure.

The Council may accept full or part payment of a CIL liability by way of the transfer of land or to receive infrastructure as payment. Any agreement relating to such a payment must be made before the chargeable development commences.

The value of any land or infrastructure offered by way of payment must be determined by a suitably qualified independent person to be instructed by the Council yet paid for by the developer/applicant.

The Council is not obliged to accept any offer of payment in kind by way of land or infrastructure.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Draft Discretionary Relief Statement



Effective from 2022

BCP Council has not adopted a policy for discretionary charitable relief, discretionary social housing relief or discretionary relief for exceptional circumstances. Only the mandatory forms of relief shall be applied by BCP Council and claims submitted for discretionary relief will not be considered.

DRAFT

APPENDIX 4

CIL Audit Recommendations Update

ID	Recommendation	Priority Rating	Target date	Status	Update
Transport & Engineering and Planning - Management of Complaints & Freedom of Information Requests 2020/21					
371	<i>R3 - It is recommended that an independent officer reviews all planning applications received and confirms they have been assessed, invoiced and coded correctly and in a timely manner, including checks on exemptions awarded.</i>	High	19/11/21	Ongoing	Legacy arrangements remain in place. There is now one CIL/Planning Obligations Team but where it sits is to be determined through the wider restructure. The team currently sits within Business Support through Smarter Structures. The CIL checking process will be simplified by the implementation of the new Planning software system later this year (2022) as all officers will be operating on one system.
372	<i>R4 - It is recommended that formal processes are determined and documented for the monitoring of overdue CIL monies and escalation and authorisation of CIL enforcement decisions.</i>	Medium	20/05/22	Implemented	The CIL/Planning Obligations Team carry out the day-to-day monitoring with formal procedures outlined within Appendix F of the BCP Debt Management Policy (April 2022).
				Ongoing	Some CIL forms and notices are currently published online attributed to the relevant application. A full review of all CIL forms and notices suitable for publication online will be carried out and effective from the implementation of the new Planning software system later this year as per recommendation R3.
373	<i>R5 - It is recommended that in line with the CIL Regulations 2010, interest on late payments across all geographic areas of the council should be applied at the nationally set rate of 2.5% above the Bank of England base rate.</i>	Medium	20/05/22	Implemented	Interest on late payments across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is applied at the nationally set rate of 2.5% above the Bank of England base rate, and this interest is applied at the same time as the surcharge is raised.

APPENDIX 4

ID	Recommendation	Priority Rating	Target date	Status	Update
374	<i>R6 - It is recommended that the structure of the CIL/Planning Obligations Team is reviewed to ensure operational management arrangements are in place</i>	Medium	20/05/22	Implemented	There is now one CIL/Planning Obligations Team with interim operational management allocated to the Interim Planning Policy Manager.
				Ongoing	The structure of the CIL/Planning Obligations Team is subject to ongoing review through Smarter Structures and is yet to be determined.
375	<i>R7 - It is recommended that future CIL spending priorities are formally considered and endorsed for detailed inclusion in the 2020/21 Infrastructure Funding Statement.</i>	Medium	20/05/22	Implemented	A basic list of priorities is presented annually to the Future Infrastructure Programme Board for agreement and publication in the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). The IFS is to be published annually by 31 st December reporting on expenditure from the previous fiscal year.
376	<i>R8 - It is recommended that a governance framework is implemented, including a documented decision-making process covering all aspects of CIL expenditure, corporate oversight and direction of CIL spend and a BCP Apportionments and Allocations policy, for agreement by relevant senior officers and Councillors.</i>	High	19/11/21	Implemented	The governance framework sees CIL Admin (5%), Neighbourhood Portion (15 or 25%) and Harbour and Heathland Mitigation top sliced from CIL. The allocation of Neighbourhood Portion (NP) funds is determined by the CIL NP Allocations Panel with the Strategic funds allocated by the Future Infrastructure Programme Board in accordance with the types of infrastructure listed in the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). This framework is now operational providing a documented decision-making process for all CIL expenditure and providing oversight / direction of spend with spending outlined annually in the Council's IFS. With this framework now operational and transparent there is no longer a need for a separate BCP Apportionments and Allocations policy.
377	<i>R9 - It is recommended that the budget holder liaises with Accountancy annually to consider the application and use of the CIL Administration Fund, including whether all applicable costs have been identified.</i>	Medium	20/05/22	Implemented	Finance provide quarterly updates on the CIL Admin position to the Head of Planning and these funds are allocated accordingly to the administration of CIL.

APPENDIX F

Details of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Debt Recovery Procedure

Where payment is due we will:

- Send a bill showing the amount owed, how to pay and who to contact in the event of a query.
- Send a reminder notice.*
- Issue 1st CIL notice
- Issue 2nd CIL notice
- Refer the case back to Department

*If the first instalment is not paid, the right to pay by instalments can be removed and the full amount will become due.

In accordance with The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 surcharges can be imposed and interest added for late payment. A stop notice can also be served, prohibiting further development until payment is made in full.

Further recovery action could include:

- A Liability Order can be obtained to enable the Council to:
 - seize assets
 - request committal to prison

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CABINET

Report subject	Youth Justice Service - Annual Youth Justice Plan
Meeting date	7 June 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	To present the Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23. There is a statutory requirement to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which must provide specified information about the local provision of youth justice services. This report summarises the Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23, with a copy of the Plan appended. The Youth Justice Plan needs to be approved by the full Council.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Cabinet recommend its approval to the Full Council</p>
Reason for recommendations	Youth Justice Services are required to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which should be approved by the Local Authority for that Youth Justice Service. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service works across both Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and Dorset Council. Approval is therefore sought from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, as well as from Dorset Council.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mike White, Portfolio Holder Children's Services
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Corporate Director, Children's Services
Report Authors	David Webb, Manager, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Youth Offending Teams (now more widely known as Youth Justice Services) are required to publish an annual youth justice plan. The Youth Justice Board provides guidance about what must be included in the plan. This year the Youth Justice Board guidance is more detailed and prescriptive and includes a template that must be used for the plan. The draft Youth Justice Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is attached at Appendix One. A brief summary of the Youth Justice Plan is provided in this report.

Summary of Contents of the Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

2. The Youth Justice Plan provides information on the resourcing, structure, governance, partnership arrangements and performance of the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service. The Plan also describes the national and local youth justice context for 2022/23 and sets out our priorities for this year.
3. The Youth Justice Board continue to monitor three 'key performance indicators' for youth justice. The first indicator relates to the rate of young people entering the justice system for the first time. Local performance in this area had declined in the period 2016-2018 but has been improving in the last four years. The latest national data, relating to the 12 months to September 2021, shows a combined pan-Dorset rate of 183 per 100,000 under 18-year-olds entering the justice system for the first time. This compares with a figure of 288 per 100,000 under 18-year-olds in the year to December 2018. Local data enables us to monitor numbers of first-time entrants in each local authority area. This local data shows a reduction in the number of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole children entering the justice system from 108 in 2018/19 to 74 in 2021/22. The Youth Justice Plan provides more detail about work to divert children from the youth justice system.
4. The other two national indicators relate to reducing reoffending and minimising the use of custodial sentences. The reoffending rate fluctuates, partly because of the current counting rules for this measure. Our local reoffending rate has for the most part remained below the national rate. Local analysis shows that young people who are more likely to reoffend are also more likely to have more complex speech, language and communication needs, to have experienced traumatic events that have impaired the child's cognitive and emotional development and to find it hard to access education or training. The Youth Justice Plan sets out some of the actions that have been taken and future plans to address these issues.

5. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service has low rates of custodial sentences, below the national average. Young people who are sentenced to custody have often experienced significant trauma in their earlier life, affecting their current behaviour. In 2020 the Youth Justice Service implemented a plan to become a trauma informed service, using the Youth Justice Board's 'Enhanced Case Management' model. More work has been undertaken in the past year to embed this approach and further development is planned for 2022/23.
6. The Youth Justice Service Partnership priorities for 2022/23 align with the strategic priorities of other services and partnerships, including the Community Safety Partnership and the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership. More work is planned to divert children from the justice system and to ensure their needs are identified and met; further work will be undertaken to reduce the over-representation of specific groups of children in the youth justice system; additional action is needed to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of our local youth justice system. The Youth Justice Plan also includes priorities for practice development within the Youth Justice Service to enhance the work done with individual children and their carers.

Options Appraisal

7. Councillors are asked to endorse the Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23 before it is considered by Cabinet. Cabinet will then decide whether to recommend approval of the Youth Justice Plan to the full Council.

Summary of financial implications

8. The Youth Justice Plan reports on the resourcing of the Youth Justice Service (YJS). Local authority and other partner contributions remained static from 2014/15 to 2018/19 when a cost of living increase to local authority contributions was agreed, along with a redistribution of the funding proportions to reflect Local Government Reorganisation. There have been no further cost of living increase in the local authority contributions. The annual Youth Justice Grant reduced from £790,000 in 2014/15 to £607,968 in 2020/21, increasing to £659,239 in 2021/22. At the time of writing this report, in early May, the Youth Justice Grant for 2022/23 has not been announced.
9. The creation of the pan-Dorset youth offending service in 2015 increased the service's resilience and ability to adapt to reduced funding and increased costs. The management of vacancies, and the deletion of some posts, has enabled a balanced budget to be achieved in the years to 2022.

Summary of legal implications

10. Local authorities are legally required to form a youth offending team with the statutory partners named in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act also stipulates that youth offending partnerships must submit an annual youth justice plan setting out how youth justice services in their area will be provided and funded; and how the youth offending team will be composed and funded, how it will operate and what functions it will carry out. The Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23 meets these legal obligations.

Summary of human resources implications

11. Local Authority YJS staff members who were previously employed by Poole and Dorset transferred to become employees of Bournemouth Borough Council in 2015.

Local Government Reorganisation in April 2019 led to a further TUPE transfer of local authority employees to the new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole council. The YJS also includes employees of the partner agencies who have been seconded to work in the team and who remain employed by the partner agency.

12. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 also contains statutory requirements for the staffing composition of youth offending services. The Youth Justice Plan shows how Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service meets these requirements.

Summary of sustainability impact

13. No adverse environmental impact has been identified. The Covid-19 pandemic led to changes in the working arrangements of the Youth Justice Service. These changes included significant reductions in staff travel, both to and from work and to visit service users, with more activities being carried out remotely. As the balance moves back towards face-to-face work team members will continue to contain their travel requirements and to undertake some tasks remotely.

Summary of public health implications

14. Young people in contact with youth justice services are known to be more likely than other young people to have unmet or unidentified health needs. The Youth Justice Service includes seconded health workers who work directly with young people and who facilitate their engagement with community health services. The Youth Justice Plan includes information about the health needs of young people in the justice system and about the work undertaken by the Youth Justice Service health team.

Summary of equality implications

15. It is recognised nationally that young people from minority ethnic groups, and young people in the care of the local authority, are over-represented in the youth justice system and particularly in the youth custodial population. It is also recognised that young people known to the YJS may experience learning difficulties or disabilities, including in respect of speech, language and communication needs. Information from Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service records, summarised in the Youth Justice Plan, show that some of these issues of over-representation also apply locally. Actions have been identified in the Youth Justice Plan to address these issues.

Summary of risk assessment

16. The Youth Justice Plan sets out local priorities and actions to prevent and reduce offending by young people. These priorities and actions have been developed in response to identified risks and concerns. The recommendation for councillors to endorse the Youth Justice Plan is intended to support the Youth Justice Service to reduce the risks associated with youth offending. No specific risks have been identified as arising from this recommendation.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan 2022/23.

Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

Service	Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
Service Manager/ Lead	David Webb
Chair of YJS Board	Theresa Leavy

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1. Introduction, vision and strategy

Foreword

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Statement of Purpose

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service works with children in the local youth justice system. Our purpose is to help those children to make positive changes, to keep them safe, to keep other people safe, and to repair the harm caused to victims. We support the national Youth Justice Board Vision for a 'child first' youth justice system:

A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims.

Who We Are and What We Do

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) is a statutory partnership between Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, The Probation Service (Dorset) and NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group.

We are a multi-disciplinary team which includes youth justice officers, restorative justice specialists, parenting workers, education and employment workers, police officers, a probation officer, nurses, speech and language therapists and a psychologist.

More information about the Youth Justice Service (YJS) partnership and the members of the YJS team is provided later in this document.

The team works with children who have committed criminal offences to help them make positive changes and to reduce the risks to them and to other people. We also work with parents and carers to help them support their children to make changes.

We contact all victims of crimes committed by the children we work with. We offer those victims the chance to take part in restorative justice processes so we can help to repair the harm they have experienced.

The organisations in the YJS partnership also work together to improve the quality of our local youth justice system, and to ensure that young people who work with the YJS can access the specialist support they need for their care, health and education.

The combination of direct work with children, parents and victims and work to improve our local youth justice and children's services systems enables us to meet our strategic objectives to:

- Reduce the number of children in the youth justice system
- Reduce reoffending by children in the youth justice system
- Improve the safety and well-being of children in the youth justice system
- Reduce and repair the harm caused to victims and the community
- Improve outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

Introduction

This document is the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) for 2022/23. It sets out the key priorities and targets for the service for the next 12 months as required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and overseen by the Youth Justice Board. This Plan has been developed under the direction of the DCYJS Partnership Board after consultation with DCYJS staff and taking into account feedback from DCYJS users. This year's Plan follows more detailed and prescriptive guidance from the Youth Justice Board about the Plan's contents and format.

The Youth Justice Strategic Plan:

- summarises the DCYJS structure, governance and partnership arrangements
- outlines the resources available to the DCYJS
- reviews achievements and developments during 2021/22
- identifies emerging issues and describes the partnership's priorities
- sets out our priorities and actions for improving youth justice outcomes this year.

Headline Strategic Priorities for 2022/23

We will:

- Continue to reduce the rate of local children entering the justice system
- Widen and deepen local understanding of and response to over-representation in the youth justice system
- Continue to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of the local youth justice system
- Make our assessments, plans and interventions more accessible, collaborative and responsive to discrimination
- Clarify and align activities to repair harm, to increase employability and to support pro-social interests and activities, including links to community organisations.

2. Local context

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) is a partnership working across two local authorities: Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Dorset Council covers a large geographical, predominantly rural area with market towns and a larger urban area in Weymouth and Portland. Dorset Council has a population of about 380,000. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole together form a conurbation with a population of nearly 400,000.

Other members of the DCYJS Partnership, such as Dorset Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, NHS Dorset CCG, Dorset HealthCare Trust and the Probation Service (Dorset) also work across both local authorities.

The following tables provide demographic information about young people in both local authorities:

Population and benchmarking data:

Population (Age 10-17)

	Dorset	BCP
Number of Children	33,133	33,929
Male (%)	51.2	51.4
Female (%) ¹	48.8	48.6
Pupils eligible for Free School Meals (%)	18.8	17.1
Pupils with SEN Support (%)	12.9	13.2
Pupils with an EHC Plan (%) ²	4.9	3.8
Pupils from Black and Minority Ethnic groups (%) ³	9.1	11
Children living in Poverty after housing costs (%) ⁴	24.5	24.8

NB: Ethnicity data is only collected at the January School Census, and the January 2022 census figures are not yet available.

2020/21 Benchmarking Data

	Dorset	BCP	SN	Good+ SN	SW	England
Children in Need as at 31 March (rate per 10,000)	326	398	262	276	275	321
Child Protection Plans as at 31 March (rate per 10,000)	44	48.5	37	38	37	41
Children in Care as at 31 March (rate per 10,000)	66	62	59	58	56	67

Data updated for 2020/21.

SN – Statistical Neighbour

Good+ SN – Statistical Neighbour rated Good or

Outstanding by Ofsted: **Cornwall, East Sussex,**

Shropshire, Suffolk and Wiltshire

SW – South West region data

¹ Source: Dorset mid-year 2020 population estimates (published June 2021)¹

² Source: October 2021 School Census (includes all pupils at a Dorset School aged 10-17: ages as at 31 August 2021)

³ January 2021 School Census (all non-white British pupils at a Dorset School, excluding 'Refused' and 'Information not yet obtained')

⁴ Local child poverty indicators 2019/20. Based on the DWP/HMRC statistics "Children in low income families: local area statistics" (March 2021).

3. Child First

The national Youth Justice Board (YJB) promotes a vision of a “*Child First youth justice system, defined as a system where all services:*

- *Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.*
- *Promote children’s individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.*
- *Encourage children’s active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.*
- *Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.”*

DCYJS supports these principles and promotes them in its own work and in its interactions with local partners in children’s services and the youth justice system. In 2021 the service changed its name, having previously been called Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service, to reflect the shift away from thinking of children as offenders.

The DCYJS Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22 set out strategic priorities which were aligned with the YJB’s Child First principles, reflecting work to improve both the local youth justice and children’s services systems and the quality of practice within DCYJS. The headline priorities were to:

- Continue and develop work to prevent children entering the justice system
- Reduce the rate of Black and Minority Ethnic children entering custody
- Develop joint work with other local services to improve outcomes for children in the justice system
- Widen the application of trauma-informed practice to all children working with the Youth Justice Service
- Strengthen the team’s work to repair harm and restore relationships.

Evidence of the Partnership’s commitment to Child First principles is embedded throughout this document.

4. Voice of the child

DCYJS works collaboratively with children to elicit their views and to hear their voices. The team’s Speech and Language Therapists complete assessments so that each child’s communication needs can be understood and responded to, not just by other workers in the team but also by the child, their carers and other professionals working with the child.

As well as hearing the child's voice in the team's day to day practice, there are also processes in place to gather the views of children and other service users about their experience of the service's work. A 'Smart Survey' feedback form is used, alongside some of the questions in the self-assessment documents that are completed by children and their carers. Service users also make spontaneous comments about the quality of the service's work with them. These comments are recorded and collated to give a wider, less structured perspective on the service's work.

In 2021/22 the service added a different approach to collecting feedback, focusing on a specific topic and conducting in-depth interviews with a small number of young people. The first topic chosen was young people who had been remanded or sentenced to custody in the past three years. The aim was to understand the child's journey to custody, their individual experiences, whether they experienced discrimination and how they had been affected by their contact with the Youth Justice Service and with other agencies, such as the police, the courts, education and children's services.

Eight young people and one parent have been interviewed for this project. A presentation summarising the young people's views has been shared with the Youth Justice Service Partnership Board, with team members in the Youth Justice Service and with other local partners including Dorset Police and the Care Experienced Young People's service in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

Some of the main findings from this piece of work include:

- The young people experienced permanent exclusion from school as a turning point in their lives
- Most interactions with the Police were 'fair enough' but sometimes young people felt they were targeted more than their peers, with provocative comments from some officers
- Young people did not understand what happened in court and did not feel able to challenge or question it, including when they had doubts about the advice from their solicitor
- The specific resources and interventions used by Youth Justice Service workers were not remembered but the young people did remember the quality of the relationship with individual workers
- Those who were under 18 and in custody found it hard to reflect on their situation and the steps that led to it, perhaps reflecting the instability and lack of safety in their current circumstances
- Young adults in the adult prison estate were better able to reflect. As well as thinking about their journey to custody they also showed insight into their current experiences in custody, describing loneliness, isolation and anxiety about the future.

The learning from this work informs the service's current plans and priorities, reflected in the Service Improvement Plan in section 11 of this document.

5. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

The work of the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is managed strategically by a Partnership Board. The Partnership Board consists of senior representatives of the statutory partner organisations, together with other relevant local partners.

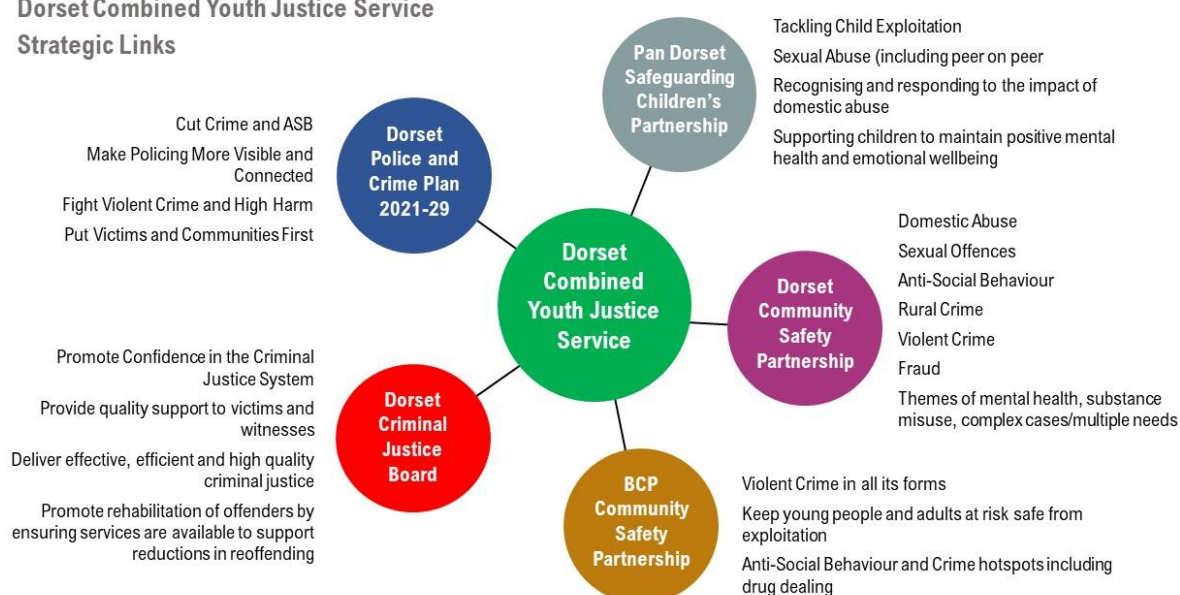
Membership:

- Dorset Council (chair)
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (vice-chair)
- Dorset Police
- The Probation Service (Dorset)
- NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Public Health Dorset
- Dorset Healthcare University Foundation Trust
- Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal service
- Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Full Board membership, including job titles and attendance during 2021/22, is included in Appendix One.

The Partnership Board oversees the development of the Youth Justice Plan, ensuring its links with other local plans.

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Strategic Links



Representation by senior leaders from the key partners enables the DCYJS Manager to resolve any difficulties in multi-agency working at a senior level and supports effective links at managerial and operational levels.

The DCYJS participates in local multi-agency agreements for information sharing, for safeguarding and for the escalation of concerns. Our Personal Information Sharing Agreement underpins local multi-agency work to prevent offending and to reduce reoffending.

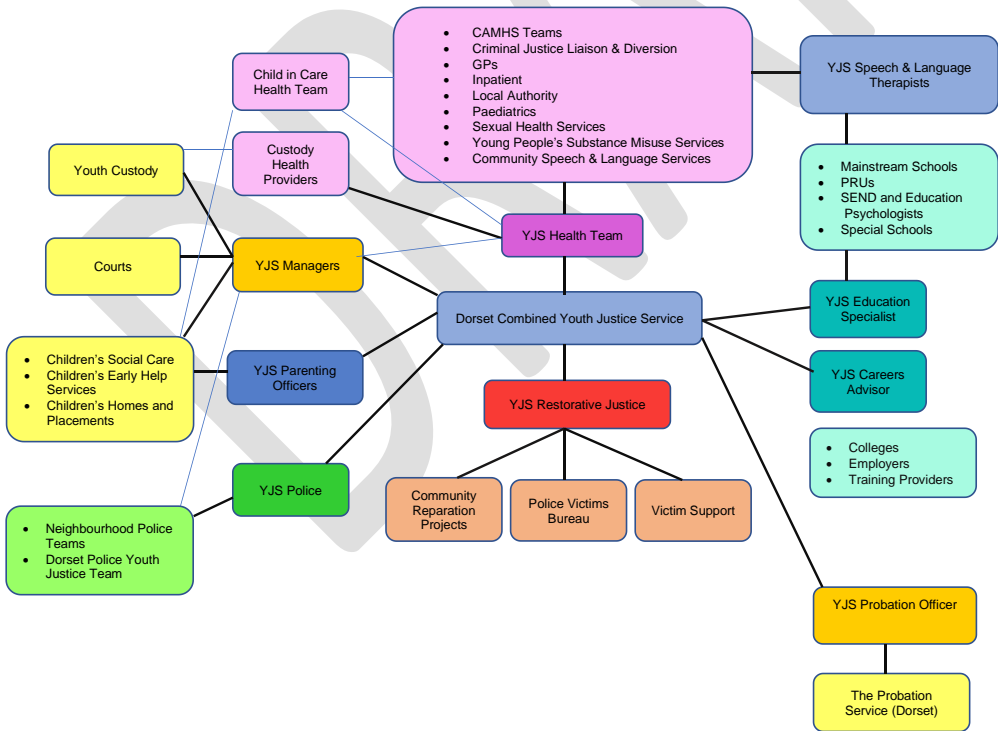
The DCYJS Partnership Board oversees activities by partner agencies which contribute to the key youth justice outcomes, particularly in respect of the prevention of offending.

The Partnership Board also provides oversight and governance for local multi-agency protocols in respect of the criminalisation of children in care and the detention of young people in police custody. The DCYJS Manager chairs multi-agency operational groups for each protocol and reports on progress to the DCYJS Partnership Board.

DCYJS is hosted by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. The Head of Service is a Tier 3 Manager, reporting to the Director for Corporate Parenting and Permanence in the Children’s Social Care service and maintaining regular contact with the equivalent post in Dorset Council.

Appendix Two includes the structure chart for DCYJS and structure charts showing where the service is located in each local authority.

DCYJS meets the statutory staffing requirements for youth justice services, set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Its multi-disciplinary team works closely with other local services, as illustrated below:



6. Resources and services

The funding contributions to the DCYJS partnership budget are listed below. All local authority staff in DCYJS are employed by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Other staff are seconded from Dorset Police, the Probation Service (Dorset) and Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust. Like all public services, DCYJS operates in a context of reducing resources. Ensuring value for money and making best use of resources is a high priority for the service.

Partner Agency	21/22 Revenue (excluding recharges)	Staff
Dorset Council	£492,800	
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	£577,700	
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner	£75,301	2.0 Police Officers
The Probation Service (Dorset)	£5,000	1.0 Probation Officer
NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group	£22,487	2.8 FTE Nurses, 0.8 Psychologist, 1.4 Speech and Language Therapists
Youth Justice Grant	£659,239 (2021/22 figure)	
Total	£1,832,527 (assuming standstill contributions from all partners)	

The Youth Justice Board Grant is paid subject to terms and conditions relating to its use. The Grant may only be used towards the achievement of the following outcomes:

- Reduce the number of children in the youth justice system;
- Reduce reoffending by children in the youth justice system;
- Improve the safety and wellbeing of children in the youth justice system; and
- Improve outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

The conditions of the Grant also refer to the services that must be provided and the duty to comply with data reporting requirements.

The Youth Justice Grant contributes to the Partnership's resources for employing practitioners who work with children to prevent and reduce offending and to keep children and other members of the community safe from harm. Resources are also used to provide restorative justice and reparative activities, to promote pro-social activities for children building on their strengths and to improve the education, training and employment opportunities of young people in the local youth justice system.

In addition to the service outcomes listed above, the Youth Justice Grant and other Partnership resources are used to achieve the strategic priorities set out in this Plan. Progress against those priorities is reported to the DCYJS Partnership Board, with oversight also provided by the respective children's services scrutiny committees of the two local authorities.

In recent years DCYJS has benefitted from one-off grant payments from NHS England to support the introduction of trauma-informed practice. In 2021/22 NHS England provided a payment of £22,800 to provide capacity in the service for a 'Trauma Champion' to develop this area of work over a 12-month period commencing in March 2022.

7. Progress on previous plan

The DCYJS Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22 identified strategic priorities under the headings of 'System Improvement' and 'Practice Improvement'.

The System Improvement priorities are listed below with a brief summary of progress made:

Developing work to prevent children entering the justice system:

- Out of Court Disposals protocol between DCYJS and Dorset Police updated to reflect new diversion options and increased commitment to seek diversion outcomes
- Early Help representatives from each local authority now participate in the weekly Out of Court Disposal decision-making meetings
- Options for additional support for children who are subject to informal justice outcomes, such as a Youth Restorative Disposal, to avoid having to enter the justice system in order to access services
- Consolidation of the Youth Diversion Disposal as a response to 'simple' drug possession offences
- Plans for developing the police Youth Diversion Officer role and the availability of the Youth Diversion Disposal for other offence types have been delayed.

Reducing the rate of Black and Minority Ethnic children entering custody:

- View-seeking work with young people in custody has been undertaken to gain better understanding of issues facing black and mixed heritage children in our local justice system
- Review completed of possible disproportionality in first-time entrants and school exclusion rates in the BCP Council area (over-representation of black and mixed heritage children was not identified in these outcomes)
- Meeting held with senior police and CPS colleagues, a DCYJS manager and the mother of a black child who has been sentenced to custody to enable the family's voice to be heard by key decision-makers
- Whole service meeting held in response to the thematic inspection report on the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the justice system to identify relevant team actions (included in the Service Improvement Plan in section 11 of this document)

Developing work with other local services to improve outcomes for children in the justice system:

- Strengthening of joint working arrangements and information sharing between DCYJS and the Harbour project in Dorset Council to reduce offending risks and improve outcomes

- Development of joint working and practitioner relationships between DCYJS and the Complex Safeguarding Team in BCP Council to help safeguard children who are suffering harm from child exploitation
- Pro-active work with local authority children's social care colleagues to improve joint support for children in care placed out of area and receiving youth justice interventions
- Ongoing work with CCG and local authority colleagues to develop a more integrated and comprehensive response to children who show harmful sexual behaviour
- Initiating a shared self-assessment process between DCYJS, SEND and Virtual School teams to identify possible improvements in our joint working arrangements
- The YJS has contributed to multi-agency work to improve the strategic and operational responses to children carrying weapons and to the use of the National Referral Mechanism but this remains an area for further development.

Practice Improvement priorities for 2021/22 are listed here, with brief details of actions taken, progress made and work still to do:

Widen the application of trauma-informed practice to all children working with the YJS:

- Work done to embed the trauma perspective in DCYJS assessments and plans
- Standard format established for recording health team consultations with case managers to summarise the impact of past trauma and guide engagement with the child
- Use of resources in work with children guided by trauma perspectives with priority given to engagement and relationship-building when necessary
- More work required on balancing the trauma perspective in work with children and the response to victim requirements

Strengthen the team's work to repair harm and restore relationships

- Progress made in embedding the 'standardised approach' for restorative justice responses to offences against emergency workers
- Work with The Harbour project to support their use of restorative approaches
- Some use of restorative approaches to respond to specific issues arising within the team
- Work to develop Unpaid Work and to establish clearer links and differentiation between reparation, victim work, Unpaid Work and positive activities has been delayed by staff sickness and pandemic issues
- Survey completed of staff knowledge, confidence and views on Restorative Justice to guide our plans for 2022/23.

8. Performance and priorities

The three national key performance indicators for youth justice services relate to:

- The rate of first time entrants to the criminal justice system
- The rate of reoffending by children in the criminal justice system
- The use of custodial sentences

The YJB publish quarterly performance data for youth justice services, compiled nationally, in relation to these three indicators. Since the start of the pandemic there have been some gaps in the publication of the national data. The information reported below is drawn from the data published in February 2022 for the period ending December 2021.

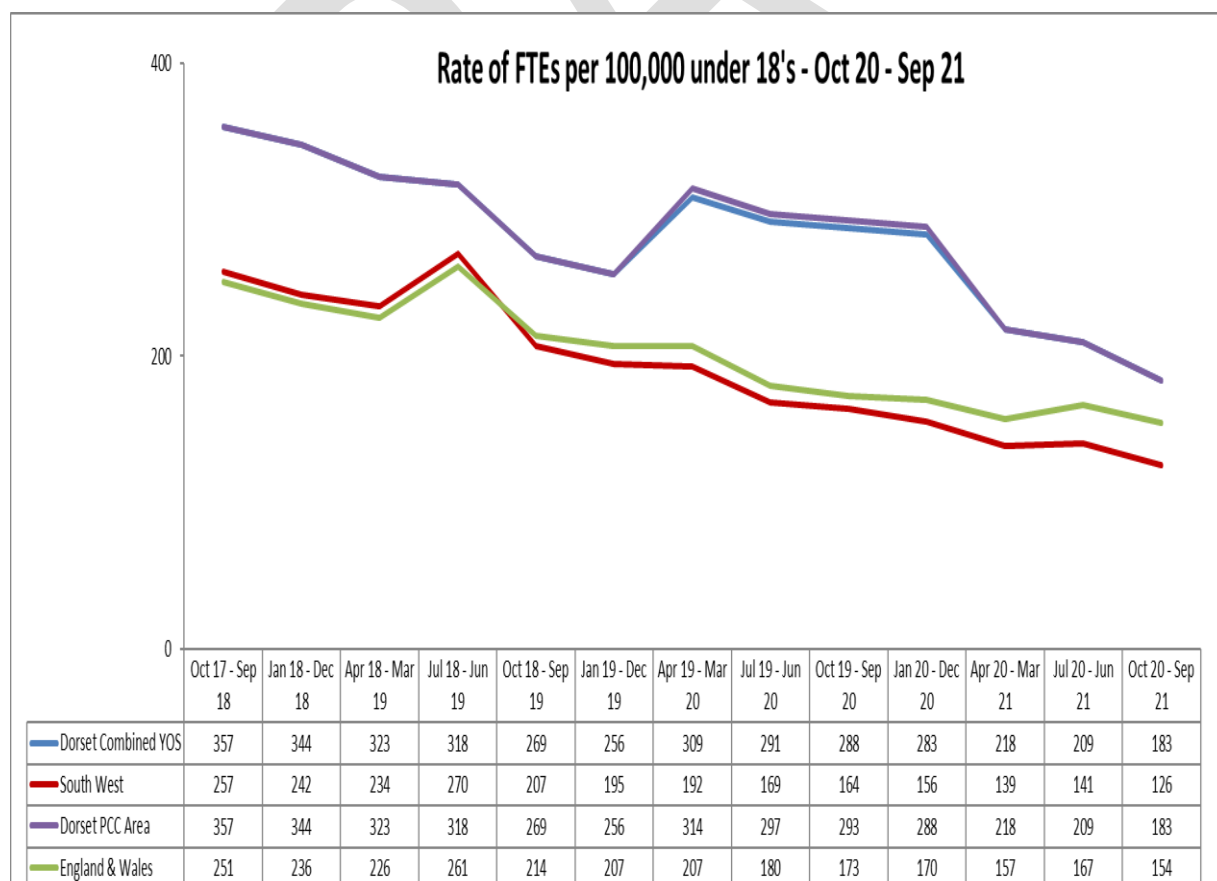
Attention is also paid to the use of custodial remands and to over-representation of minority groups in the youth justice system.

First Time Entrants

A 'First Time Entrant' is a child receiving a formal criminal justice outcome for the first time. A Youth Caution, a Youth Conditional Caution or a court outcome count as a formal criminal justice outcome. There are also informal options available for responding to offences by children. Dorset Police, DCYJS and other children's services work closely together to decide the appropriate outcome for an offence by a child, seeking an informal option whenever possible. It is recognised that receiving a formal justice outcome is in itself detrimental for children.

National performance data for First Time Entrants is drawn from the Police National Computer (PNC). Local data is also recorded on the DCYJS case management system. There is a discrepancy between national and local data for First Time Entrants; it is not possible to compare individual case records to confirm the accuracy of the respective figures. DCYJS has confidence in the accuracy of its case records showing home address information and child in care status.

The following chart shows the most recent published national First Time Entrants data. DCYJS has seen a reduction in its rate of children entering the justice system, reflecting the priorities of the DCYJS partnership and the work undertaken locally to divert children from formal justice outcomes. The combined rate for our two local authorities has dropped from 288 per 100,000 under 18s in the year to September 2020 to 183 in the year to September 2021. DCYJS remains above regional and national averages for this indicator but the gap is narrowing.



Local data for First Time Entrants shows a reduction across both local authority areas in recent years, shown in the following table:

[DCYJS First Time Entrants by Gender and Local Authority past 4 years:](#)

Year	BCP male	BCP female	BCP total	Dorset male	Dorset female	Dorset total	BCP and Dorset total
2018/19	78 (72%)	30 (28%)	108	75 (71%)	31 (29%)	106	214
2019/20	91 (85%)	16 (15%)	107	61 (77%)	18 (23%)	79	186
2020/21	63 (83%)	13 (17%)	76	38 (75%)	13 (25%)	51	127
2021/22 (to end Dec)	47 (87%)	7 (13%)	54	24 (92%)	2 (8%)	26	80
Total	279 (81%)	66 (19%)	345	198 (76%)	64 (24%)	262	607

This table shows that there has been a clear reduction in the number of local children entering the justice system over the past four years. Although there have been reductions in both local authority areas, this is particularly so in Dorset. The reduction applies to both males and females, with a larger proportionate reduction amongst females.

More detailed local data showing information about First Time Entrants over the past four years has been reported to the DCYJS Partnership Board. Some of the key points from this information are that:

- The reduction has not been so marked for the youngest age group with little change to the numbers of 10-13 year-olds entering the justice system
- There does not appear to be over-representation of children with diverse ethnic heritage. Over the past four years, 5% of Dorset's First Time Entrants and 8% of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole's First Time Entrants have been black or mixed heritage children, below the proportions in the population.
- The proportion of First Time Entrants receiving court disposals has increased, from 27% in 2018/19 to 43% in the first 9 months of 2021/22.
- The proportion of First Time Entrants receiving a Youth Caution has dropped from 56% in 2018/19 to 35% in the first 9 months of 2021/22. This suggests that some children are being diverted from Youth Cautions and receiving informal justice outcomes instead.

Following the analysis of local First Time Entrants data for the YJS Partnership Board meeting in January 2022, partners looked in more detail at the local children aged 10-13 who have entered the justice system since April 2020. The following table, drawn from Police, local authority and DCYJS information, shows the level of other needs amongst the BCP children in this group:

[BCP First-Time Entrants aged 13 or younger April 2020 to January 2021](#)

Factor	Yes (out of total 25 children)	Percentage
First contact with police as victim or witness of harm	24	96%
Known to children's social care	19	76%

Fixed Term Exclusions from school	23	92%
Permanent exclusion from school	11	44%
SEN support	14	56%
EHCP	7	28%
Weapons offences	13	52%
Other violence	7	28%
Previous YRD or SSCT input	7	28%
Youth Caution	11	44%
Youth Conditional Caution	10	40%
Referral Order	4	16%

All but one of these children first came to police attention not for their own behaviour but as the victim or witness of harm. In 23 out of 24 such instances the harm took place in the family home, such as witnessing domestic abuse, experiencing physical abuse, having a parent with mental health or substance use problems and/or having parents or older siblings in contact with the police.

The high level of Special Educational Needs in this group, combined with experiencing trauma at home, perhaps helps to explain the high level of fixed term and permanent exclusions from school which these children had experienced, despite their relatively young age.

It is also notable that 13 of these 25 children committed offences involving the possession of a weapon. This raises concern about the risk of harm and perhaps reflects the sense of threat that these children have experienced in their lives to date.

Prevention and Diversion

The rate of children entering the justice system is influenced by the effectiveness of local prevention and diversion activities. 'Prevention' refers to work with children who have been identified as being at risk of going on to commit offences if they do not receive additional help. 'Diversion' refers to the response to children who have been identified as committing an offence but who can be diverted from the justice system.

DCYJS does not directly undertake prevention work. Each of our local authorities provides early help services, working with other local organisations like schools, the Dorset Police Safer Schools and Communities Team and the voluntary sector.

In the Dorset Council area oversight of prevention activities sits with the Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People, supported by more detailed work at locality level. The DCYJS Manager is a member of the Strategic Alliance and team members participate in locality meetings to identify and respond to children at risk.

In the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area, the Children and Young People's Partnership oversees prevention work.

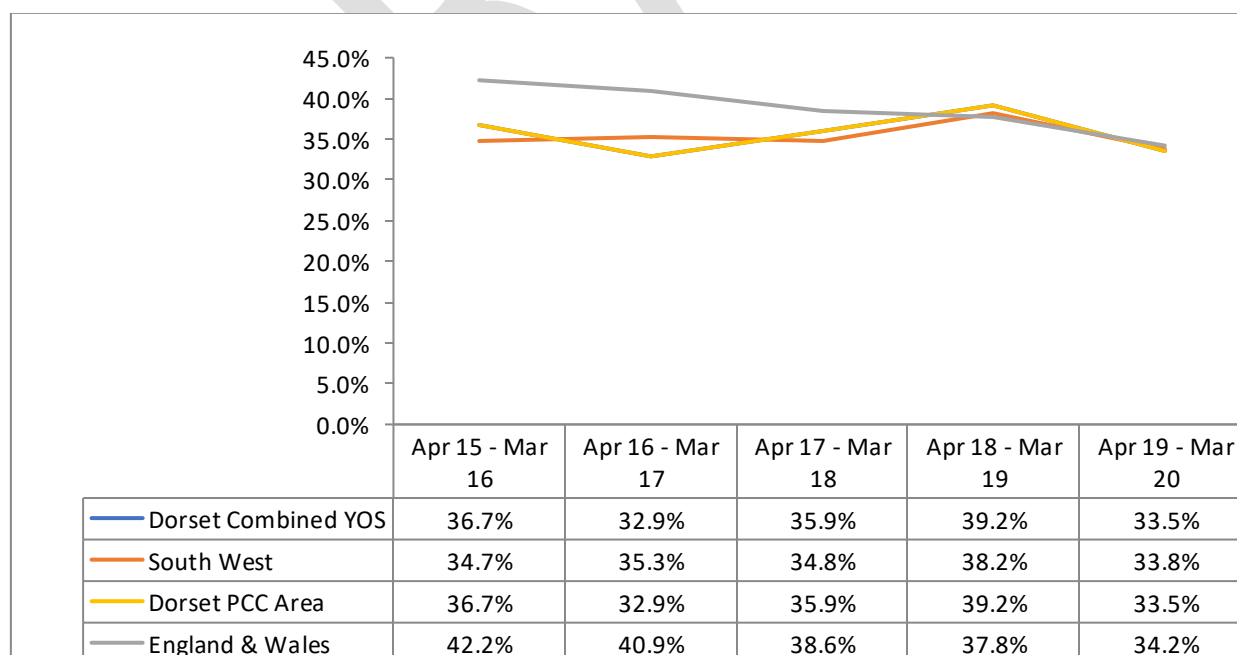
Diversion work is undertaken locally on a partnership basis. Dorset Police, DCYJS and local authority Early Help services meet weekly to review children who have come to attention for committing offences. Decisions are taken about the appropriate response, with diversion options being taken when possible. Diversion activities usually involve additional support for the child and, when appropriate, some form of restorative response in respect of the criminal offence. The Dorset Police Safer Schools and Communities Team, Early Help Services, Children's Social Care Services and DCYJS each provide support at the diversion stage. The appropriate service for each child is decided on the basis of the child's needs, risks and existing relationships with professionals.

During 2021/22 Dorset Police have piloted a Youth Diversion Officer. The remit of the post is to help ensure children who are diverted from the justice system get access to appropriate services and to identify and address any barriers preventing this access. Students from Bournemouth University are currently assisting Dorset Police with analysis of diversion work, including the role of the Youth Diversion Officer but extending back three years to look more widely at how outcomes for children who have contact with the justice system.

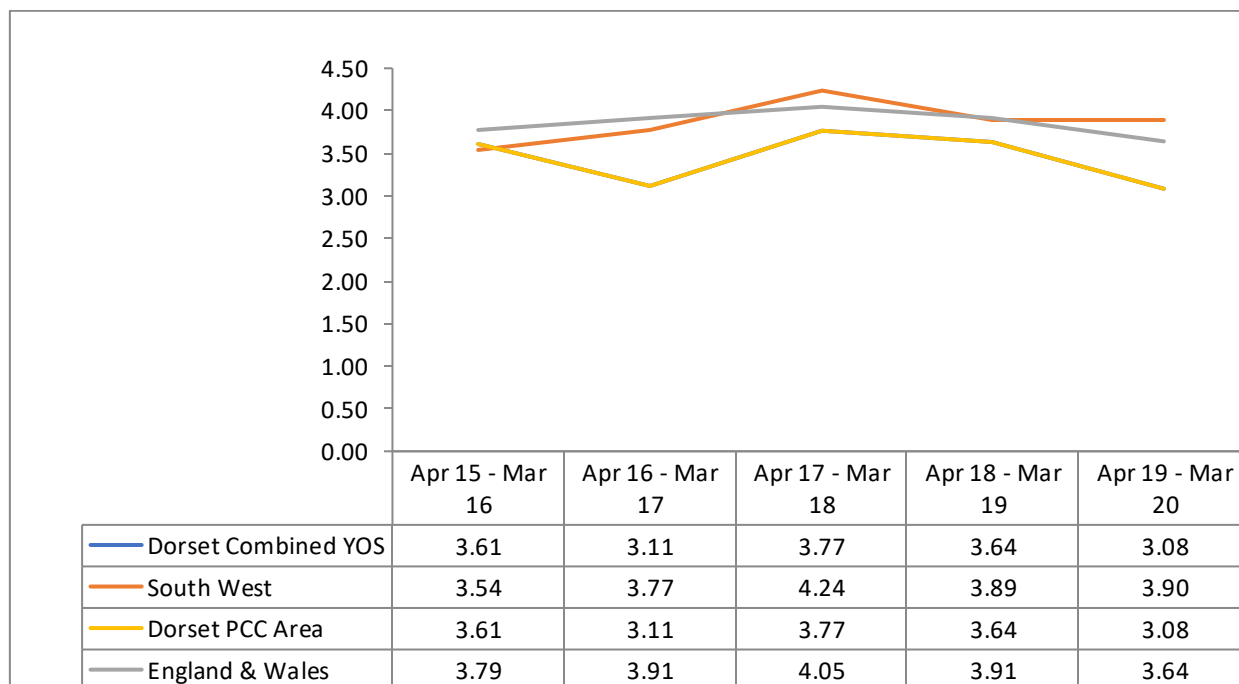
Rate of Proven Reoffending

National re-offending data is published in two formats: the 'binary' rate shows the proportion of children in the cohort who go on to be convicted for subsequent offences in the 12 months after their previous justice outcome; the 'frequency' rate shows the average number of offences per reoffender. Reoffending data is necessarily delayed in order to allow time to see if the child is reconvicted and for that later outcome to be recorded. The following data therefore relates to children with whom the service worked up to March 2020.

Reoffending rate (Reoffenders/Number in cohort)



Reoffences/Reoffenders



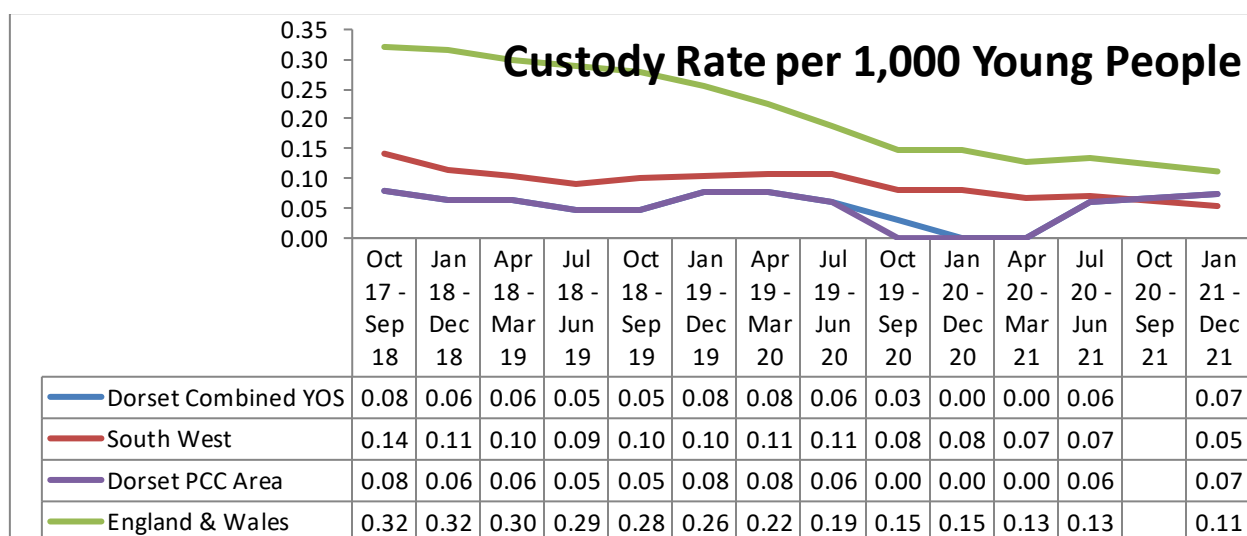
The data shows an improvement in the latest published performance, with Dorset below national and regional averages for both measures.

Local data can also be analysed for a more detailed and specific understanding of reoffending patterns. During 2021/22 the DCYJS Performance and Information Manager has experienced recurring periods of sickness absence, reducing the team's capacity for data analysis. Plans are in place to increase the resilience of the team's data analysis capacity in 2022/23.

[Use of Custodial Sentences](#)

DCYJS continues to see low numbers of children sentenced to custody.

The latest national data is copied below. The gap in the figures for the year to September 2021 reflects a gap in the national data publication.



[Supporting children in custody](#)

Members of the DCYJS partnership are committed to reducing the use of custody for children. It is recognised that incarceration can have a damaging effect on children's lives, putting pressure on family relationships, disrupting education, reviving or increasing experiences of trauma and damaging the child's living arrangements. Inspection reports for custodial establishments demonstrate ongoing concerns about their safety and about the impact on the children who are detained.

The low numbers of local children entering custody, reported above, is replicated across the south-west, meaning that there are no custodial establishments for children in our region. This means that all children in custody are located a considerable distance from home, making it harder for families to visit. DCYJS supports parents of children in custody, as well as the children themselves, helping them to cope with both the practicalities and the emotional impact of the situation.

DCYJS allocates paired case managers for all children in custody, to ensure resilience and shared reflection in the work with these children. A DCYJS nurse and a DCYJS education specialist are always allocated to children in custody to facilitate liaison with custody health care and education providers to help ensure that the child's specific educational and health needs can be met and to enable continuity of education and health care during and after the custodial period. DCYJS Speech and Language assessments are also shared with the custodial establishment to enable custody staff to communicate more effectively with the child.

Finding suitable accommodation for children leaving custody can be challenging. DCYJS contributes to local authority care planning processes, promoting the early identification of the child's release address. The DCYJS Manager reports to the DCYJS Partnership Board on the timeliness of accommodation being confirmed for children being released from custodial sentences. No children have reached their release date during 2021/22 so there is no current data to report.

While the national performance indicator relates to custodial sentences, there is also concern about the numbers of children being remanded into custody. In January 2022 the Ministry of Justice published a 'Review of Custodial Remand for Children' which noted that in 2021 about 45% of children in custody were on remand. During 2021/22

seven local children have been remanded in custody, an increase on the four custodial remands in the preceding year. Although there are some similarities among these remand cases, such as the seriousness of the alleged offences and in some cases the alleged commission of serious offences while on bail, each case has unique individual circumstances which require review. Of the seven cases, four remain on remand at the end of the year, two received a custodial sentence in excess of 12 months and one received a community sentence. Lack of suitable accommodation was a factor in the remand decision for this final case, concerns which DCYJS raised at the time.

Over-representation

It is recognised nationally that some groups of children, such as those with diverse ethnic heritage, children in care and children with Special Educational Needs are over-represented in the youth justice system. Nationally, just over 50% of children in custody identify as having diverse ethnic heritage, significantly more than the proportion in the total population.

The low numbers of local children being sentenced to custody makes it difficult to provide sound statistical analysis of possible over-representation of young people with diverse ethnic heritage. In the year 2021/22 fewer than 5 young people from the BCP Council area were sentenced to custody and no young people from the Dorset Council area received a custodial sentence. DCYJS undertakes an informal review process for each child sentenced or remanded to custody, including attention being paid to possible over-representation of or differential response to minority groups.

First-Time Entrants information referred to above, relating to the analysis of local children entering the justice system, does not show over-representation of children with diverse ethnic heritage at this stage of the justice system. National reviews do show, however, that black children can be more likely to 'progress' through the justice system to receive more onerous sentences, for complex reasons including the point of entry into the justice system and differences in the assessment of risk. Learning from national reviews, such as the thematic inspection published in October 2021 on the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the justice system, is shared within the DCYJS team and applied to our practice.

The proportion of girls on the DCYJS caseload fluctuates but stays within a range of about 15%-20% of the total caseload, consistent with national rates. Worker allocation decisions are taken carefully to be sensitive to each girl's needs. In the context of the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda and concerns about peer on peer sexual abuse, DCYJS managers are currently reviewing good practice and resources used elsewhere to help us improve our work with girls. The emphasis of some of this work will be on work with boys to help them achieve healthy relationships and to reduce the risk they pose to girls. These developments are being undertaken with support from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

DCYJS also works with a small number of young people who are exploring their gender identity and may be in the process of gender reassignment. Given the low numbers and the emerging information and understanding in this area it is hard to assess the extent of possible over-representation of this group in the youth justice system. It is clear though that these young people face potential discrimination and are likely to have specific needs which require an individualised response. This is an area for the service to develop its practice in 2022/23.

The analysis of local First Time Entrants, summarised above, showed the high level of Special Educational Needs and school exclusions amongst younger children entering the justice system. These concerns fit with evidence collected by the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapists, showing high levels of communication needs amongst children in our local youth justice system. In most cases these needs have not been identified or formally assessed until the child meets with the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapist.

Education, Training and Employment

Nationally and locally it is recognised that children in the youth justice system are less likely to stay in mainstream schools, to achieve good educational outcomes and to access education, employment or training after Year 11. Each local authority's Director of Education is a member of the DCYJS Partnership Board. DCYJS employs an Education Officer and a post-16 Careers Adviser who work with schools and local authorities to increase the suitability of provision and with young people to understand their needs and to support their attendance and engagement. The DCYJS ETE workers maintain strong links with colleagues in the Virtual Schools, the SEND teams and Inclusion services.

Information reported above, in the section on First Time Entrants, showed the frequency of Special Educational Needs and school exclusions among younger children entering the justice system. Similar issues prevail on the overall DCYJS caseload. In late 2021 the DCYJS Manager and the BCP Council Director of Education reported to the BCP Council Equalities Action Commission on rates of school exclusions and possible links to over-representation. The following table reflects the BCP Council children on the the DCYJS caseload in November 2021:

BCP YJS cases November 2021

Ethnicity	No. on YJS caseload	Exclusions	Suspensions	Exclusions & Suspensions
White-British	81	16 (20%)	30 (37%)	46 (57%)
White-Other & White-Irish	6	1 (17%)	3 (50%)	4 (67%)
Mix WBA, WBC, Other	4	1 (25%)	2 (50%)	3 (75%)
All	91	18 (20%)	35 (38%)	53 (58%)

These figures indicate a high overall rate of permanent and fixed term exclusions on the YJS caseload, with a higher rate among mixed heritage children. It should though be noted that the low numbers in this group mean that a small change in numbers would have a large impact on the percentages.

Analysis of the DCYJS Dorset Council cases in March 2022 showed the following information about their education/training/employment status and their associated needs:

Dorset YJS cases March 2022

Education, Training, Employment Status	Number	With EHCP	Open to Children's Social Care	Open to Early Help
School age	20	5	9	4
Mainstream school	7	0	1	2
Alternative Provision/PRU	12	4	7	2
Custody	1	1	1	0
Post-16	21	5	4	1
Employed	6	1	0	0
Further Education	5	1	0	0
NEET	10	3	4	1
TOTAL	41	10	13	5

There is a higher rate of EHCPs and of contact with other children's services among those who are not in mainstream school and not in employment or further education. It should though be noted that those young people who are in school may be at risk of exclusion, needing support to avoid this outcome, and those who are in employment or at college may need help to maintain this status.

During the past year there have been low numbers of children receiving Elective Home Education. Successful work at individual case level means that in March 2022 there are no children on the YJS caseload who are designated as receiving Elective Home Education.

During 2021/22 DCYJS has started work to improve its data recording for ETE, to review the quality of joint work with local authority SEND services and with the Virtual Schools and to develop its options for post-16 young people who are NEET. These will continue to be priorities in 2022/23.

Serious Violence and Exploitation

Tackling child exploitation and reducing serious violence are priorities for strategic partnerships in both our local authority areas (as described in section 5 of this Plan).

Most of the violent offences committed by children do not reach the 'serious violence' threshold. Analysis and comparison of youth justice outcomes in the 3-month periods December 2019–February 2020 and December 2021–February 2022 shows a reduction in violent offences being dealt with but a small increase in weapon-related offences.

Analysis of First Time Entrants, summarised earlier in this section, shows that more than half of BCP Council First Time Entrants aged 13 or younger in the last two years had committed offences involving weapons (possession of a knife in most instances). The equivalent data for Dorset Council First Time Entrants showed a lower number and proportion of weapon offences, featuring in 20% of the cases.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2021 introduces a Serious Violence Duty for specified authorities, including youth justice services, to work together to share data

and knowledge, allowing them to target their interventions to prevent serious violence. As stated in section 5 above, tackling violence is a current priority for both our Community Safety Partnerships, and for the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner. This Youth Justice Plan contributes to that shared local commitment and endeavour.

Child Exploitation occurs across the pan-Dorset area, with DCYJS seeing higher rates of exploitation amongst its BCP Council caseload. DCYJS plays an active role in the partnership arrangements in both local authority areas to address child exploitation, participating in the strategic and tactical groups as well as other multi-agency initiatives. At the operational level, DCYJS team members are part of multi-agency child exploitation case meetings and contribute to multi-agency responses to concerns about specific locations or networks.

Dorset Police, Children's Social Care services and DCYJS work together to refer suitable cases to the National Referral Mechanism. Delays in the Home Office response to these referrals can lead to repeated adjournments of court cases involving young people who have had NRM referrals. Such delays exacerbate problems with youth justice timeliness, which were a local focus prior to the pandemic and which were compounded by court closures and restrictions during the pandemic. Long delays in completing cases in the youth court and the crown court mean that children can remain subject to bail conditions for many months. With months passing between the offence and the court outcome there is also a deleterious effect on work to meet the needs of victims and to address a child's offending.

[Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements \(MAPPA\)](#)

DCYJS is an active participant in the local MAPPA Strategic Management Board and has established strong working links with the MAPPA Coordinator. MAPPA status reflects either the young person's offence and sentence or a risk assessment indicating that the young person poses a High Risk of Serious Harm to others and requires multi-agency risk management above that which is provided through the DCYJS Risk Assessment Panel process.

In March 2022 eight DCYJS cases, out of 129 on the caseload, had MAPPA status, with most of them being managed at Level One (ordinary agency risk management).

During 2021/22, in line with the refreshed national MAPPA Guidance, improvements were made to MAPPA transition processes. When MAPPA Level Two or Level Three risk management commences for a young adult who was previously known to DCYJS the MAPPA Coordinator seeks relevant information from DCYJS to aid risk management and a representative of DCYJS attends at least the initial MAPPA meeting.

[Health and Communication Needs](#)

It has long been recognised that young people in the youth justice system have significant and interacting health needs which may not have been adequately identified or addressed. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires youth offending teams to include specialist health staff. The DCYJS health team, funded mostly by NHS Dorset CCG and employed by Dorset HealthCare Trust, comprises a part-time Psychologist, 2.8 Youth Justice Nurses and 1.4 Speech and Language Therapists. The YJS Nurses are employed through CAMHS and combine expertise in child mental health and wellbeing

with wider nursing expertise in respect of physical health, sexual health and substance misuse.

During 2021/22 the DCYJS health team has supported the development of the service's trauma recovery model of working. Young people in the youth justice system have often experienced past trauma, such as witnessing domestic abuse, being the victims of physical abuse, neglect and emotional abuse, which affects their cognitive and emotional development. Understanding a child's trauma history, and its impact on their current presentation, in a context of concerns about child exploitation and serious violence, enables YJS workers to respond to the child's individual needs with the emphasis often being on helping to establish a positive and pro-social relationship. YJS Nurses work directly with young people, sometimes providing treatment for past trauma, as well as providing case consultations to other YJS team members.

The YJS Speech and Language Therapists also play an important role in the individualised response to each child. All children who receive a court order or a second 'Out of Court Disposal' are offered a speech and language assessment. As was noted in the DCYJS 2021/22 Youth Justice Plan, the evidence from these assessments is that about 80% of young people known to DCYJS have additional communication needs, with about 30% having significant needs such as Developmental Language Disorder. In most cases these needs have not been identified until the YJS start working with the child and complete a speech and language assessment.

[Support for parents of children in the youth justice system](#)

The parents and carers of children in the youth justice system have particular needs and challenges. Although the law holds children individually responsible from the age of 10 for criminal behaviour, parents may feel a sense of responsibility and there is often a family context to a child's behaviour. The difficult, complex emotions that parents feel in this situation require sensitive support. The youth justice system has specialist language and procedures which may be hard for parents to understand and navigate.

DCYJS employs parenting workers to provide support directly to parents, working in partnership with colleagues who support the young person. This work is aimed at helping families to restore and repair relationships and to support children's positive achievements.

The DCYJS parenting workers also provide assistance with the challenges of the youth justice system. Feedback from parents has shown that they may not understand what takes place in the youth court. For the small number who have a child in custody there are numerous practical challenges to face, as well as the emotional impact of the separation from their child and the concern about their child's welfare.

During 2021/22 the team have developed their focus on working with both parents, including absent parents, recognising the importance of fathers as well as mothers and responding to messages from serious case and learning reviews about the need to include both parents. DCYJS raised concerns this year with the YJB about the AssetPlus self-assessment process only seeking and recording the views of one parent. The team seeks the views of both parents whenever possible and working with both parents will continue to be a focus in 2022/23.

Restorative Justice and Victims

One of the challenges for DCYJS during 2021/22 has been achieving the correct balance between meeting the needs of the child, as described in the previous section, and meeting the needs of the child's victim. The DCYJS Restorative Justice Practitioners contact every victim of children who work with the service, seeking to find out about the impact of the offence and to seek opportunities for Restorative Justice activities.

Delays in the youth justice system, which are more common in cases that go to court, make it harder to engage victims in activity to repair the harm they have experienced. The DCYJS Restorative Justice Practitioners exercise tact and sensitivity in their contacts with victims, emphasising the victim's choice in whether or how much they engage with our service.

The Covid pandemic has exacerbated court delays and has also restricted the opportunities for face to face Restorative Justice meetings. During 2021/22 some Restorative Justice Conferences have taken place face to face, some have been conducted virtually and in some cases it has not been possible to find a suitable and safe way to hold the meeting.

An area of development in 2021/22 has been the 'standardised approach'. This is the local name given to victim work with emergency workers, following offences such as 'assault emergency worker'. Police officers and other emergency workers make up a high proportion of the YJS victim caseload but may be reluctant to participate in Restorative Justice. As well as seeking ways to increase their participation, the YJS Restorative Justice Practitioners have worked with the YJS Police Officers to develop other ways to help young people to understand the impact of their behaviour on emergency workers and to look for ways for young people to repair the harm caused.

In early 2022 DCYJS's lead manager for Restorative Justice surveyed the views of other team members about their knowledge, confidence and enjoyment of Restorative Justice work. There is a high level of commitment to Restorative Justice in the team. The survey identified some specific areas for development which will form part of our plans for 2022/23.

9. National Standards

Youth justice services are required to comply with minimum national standards. The latest edition of national standards, 'Standards for Children in Youth Justice Services', was published in 2019. The YJB mandates youth justice services to undertake periodic self-assessments of their compliance with national standards.

The last national standards self-assessment was completed in March 2020. DCYJS demonstrated adherence to the standards with a small number of standards requiring further activity in order to strengthen compliance.

The following areas of activity were identified for further development:

- Development of local strategies to prevent children from becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
- Multi-agency analysis of disproportionality in court and out of court contexts for local children

- Evidencing strategic partner confidence in the YJS supervision of children on justice outcomes in the community
- Holding local partners to account for their part in the successful transition and resettlement of children released from custody
- Consistent recording/storage of sentence plans.

These actions were reported to the DCYJS Partnership Board and were added to DCYJS team plans. Progress has been made in all these areas though some of these activities are outside the direct control of DCYJS. Continuing actions are identified for each of the above issues, to develop or audit the progress made.

10. Challenges, risks and issues

Like other youth justice services, DCYJS operates in a context of system challenges and resource pressures. Achievement of the service's priorities in 2022/23 could be affected by a number of risks and issues, including:

- Funding and resources – in cash terms the DCYJS budget was £261K smaller in 2021/22 than it had been in 2014/15, before allowing for inflation and pay increases during that period. Continuing budget pressures and inflation risks make this a continuing challenge.
- Children's Services face a number of challenges, nationally and locally, with the shortage of suitable placements for children in care being of particular relevance to youth justice services. Without suitable placements it is difficult to establish the building blocks to help children build positive futures, such as education, health care and positive peer networks.
- Delays in the youth justice system, linked to pressures in the wider criminal justice system and exacerbated by Covid, make it harder to engage victims in Restorative Justice and to work effectively with young people to prevent future offending.
- The impact of Covid on young people is still emerging, including setbacks to young people's education and their mental health. These issues may contribute to negative effects on children's behaviour, increasing the likelihood of substance misuse, exploitation and offending.

The DCYJS service plan for 2022/23 will continue to address these issues, making best use of resources, working with partners to mitigate the impact of placement shortages, developing plans to improve timeliness in our local youth court system and responding to the education and mental health needs of children following the pandemic.

11. Service improvement plan

The DCYJS service plan and strategic priorities for 2022/23 have been developed in the context of all the information summarised in the preceding sections of this document.

The service's plan and priorities also reflect learning from self-assessments, case audits, learning reviews and inspection reports during 2021/22.

Self-assessment:

DCYJS is currently awaiting inspection. HMI Probation is entering the fifth year of a six-year inspection programme of all youth offending teams in England and Wales. DCYJS has not yet been inspected during this programme.

As part of preparations for inspection, in 2021 DCYJS updated a self-assessment for 'Domain One' of the inspection framework, relating to the arrangements underpinning the service's Organisational Delivery. The service has been working on areas for improvement identified in the self-assessment including:

- Some aspects of the DCYJS Board's work, including Board members advocating for youth justice issues in other parts of their work
- Improving the collection and use of data to inform performance and service improvement
- Improving links with other local children's services electronic case management systems
- Some Equality Act 'protected characteristics' need further work.

Case audit:

DCYJS undertakes a detailed case audit each year, using the youth justice inspection criteria. The audit in 2021 identified good practice in building relationships with young people, despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic. Areas for improvement were identified in:

- More work to be done on making assessments, plans and interventions accessible, collaborative (with young people, parents and with other professionals) and responsive to discrimination
- Work to do on clarifying and aligning reparation activities, unpaid work, employability options and constructive activities, including links to community organisations.

Learning reviews and inspection reports:

DCYJS takes part in local multi-agency learning reviews under both the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership and the MAPPA Strategic Management Board. During 2021/22 the DCYJS Manager chaired the review panel for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review in the Dorset Council area and the review panel for a MAPPA Serious Case Review in Bournemouth.

Relevant issues identified in local learning reviews this year include:

- High quality transition arrangements for young people moving to adult services
- The importance of persistence in building positive relationships with young people
- Joint work across youth justice services for children in care placed out of area
- Identifying possible needs and risks for younger siblings when working with a child in the justice system
- Safe ways to manage risk within teenage intimate relationships.

HMI Probation published one thematic inspection report relating to youth justice work this year. The report on the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system has been mentioned above. The DCYJS Team Plan for 2021/22 was updated to include the recommendations from this report and work in these areas will continue in 2022/23.

HMI Probation continued to publish inspection reports into individual youth justice services during 2021/22, summarised in their Annual Report in March 2022: [2021 Annual Report: \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/2021-annual-report/).

Views of DCYJS Board members, team members and service users:

Information relating to the service's performance, progress on past plans, learning from local and other case reviews and inspection reports and the priorities of other local strategic partnerships were reported and discussed with the DCYJS Board in January 2022 and with the DCYJS team in February 2022. The views of service users were collected during the year, with particular attention paid to the messages from the view-seeking work with young people in custody. Those conversations identified the following strategic priorities for our youth justice partnership in 2022/23.

Strategic Priorities for 2022-23

The work of the service is underpinned by commitments to repairing harm to victims and children, to helping children to build positive identities and futures and to the 'Child First' ethos of the Youth Justice Board. All of these commitments depend on the team's ability to build positive relationships with children, parents/carers, victims, other professionals and each other.

The DCYJS strategic priorities can be grouped under the following headings:

- System improvement
- Practice improvement

System Improvement

Continue to reduce the rate of local children entering the justice system

- Allocate Youth Justice Worker time to support children who are diverted from formal youth justice outcomes
- Develop multi-agency understanding and plans to avoid children aged 10-13 entering the justice system
- Work with Dorset Police on the next steps of their youth diversion work, including the outcome of research into the impact of formal and informal out of court disposals in recent years
- Confirm local multi-agency arrangements to ensure that children identified for early concerns over anti-social behaviour have any additional needs recognised and addressed.

Continue to address over-representation of minority groups in the youth justice system

- Implement the recommendations from the thematic inspection into the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the justice system
- Monitor the experiences and outcomes for young people in our youth justice system with diverse heritage and take action to reduce the risk of them entering custody

- Develop data recording and reporting to identify different groups at possible risk of over-representation, such as more specific ethnicity information, disability, care status, SEND
- Cross-reference youth justice disproportionality issues with other relevant outcomes for children, such as school exclusion, experiencing exploitation, contact with social care services
- Develop the YJS response to children with gender identity issues
- Continue to share with partners the findings from DCYJS view-seeking work with young people in custody
- Work with local authority SEND and Virtual School partners to self-assess our joint work and develop action plans as required.

Continue to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of the local youth justice system

- Work with HMCTS to shorten the time between charge and first hearing dates for youth cases
- Co-produce with magistrates, young people and parents a guide to the local youth courts so that young people and their parents/carers are better prepared for court and better included in the work of the court
- Work with defence solicitors to share the findings from view-seeking work with young people to improve communication and the effectiveness of legal advice
- Provide police colleagues with training in the communication needs of young people in the justice system and suitable communication techniques
- Strengthen the support for young adults in the justice system by working jointly with local authority leaving care services, SEND services and the Probation Service.

Practice Improvement

Make our assessments, plans and interventions more accessible, collaborative and responsive to discrimination

- Agree with young people a better format for intervention plans, with advice from the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapists, to be used across all DCYJS work
- Change the format of DCYJS Referral Order Initial Panel reports to present the information about the child before the information about the offence
- Support DCYJS staff to write assessments, plans and reports in 'Easy Read' style
- Work with young people to understand their experiences of discrimination and its impact on their identity
- Meet with young people and their parents/carers to go through reports and seek their views before court appearances or Referral Order panel meetings
- Include the views of young people and their parents/carers in team case audit activities.

Clarify and align activities to repair harm, increase employability and to support pro-social interests and activities, including links to community organisations

- Review the team's approach to our work with young people to help them repair the harm from their offence
- Clarify the overlaps and distinctions between work to repair harm, Unpaid Work, employability courses and constructive activities
- Agree a budget to support children to access positive pro-social activities, building on their strengths and interests, that can be continued after DCYJS involvement ends
- Build links with a wider range of community organisations to increase the service's ability to find the right activities for children's varying interests and skills.

Workforce Development

The DCYJS Workforce Development Policy identifies core training for different roles in the team. As well as refresher training in child safeguarding, child exploitation and information governance, team members have also completed training in Motivational Interviewing, AIM3 Harmful Sexual Behaviour assessments and Restorative Justice with complex and sensitive cases.

In addition to these core training courses, which will continue to be attended and updated in 2022/23, the service's development plans require staff training in the following areas:

- Trauma-informed practice – refresher training for all practitioner staff, initial training for new staff
- MAPPA and the management of risk – refresher training for all practitioner staff
- 'Easy Read' – support from the team's Speech and Language Therapists to help team members write assessments, plans and reports in an 'easy read' style
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – use our joint self-assessment process with local authority colleagues to identify training needs in respect of SEND
- Self-harm and suicide risk – DCYJS health team to support colleagues in their assessment and response to self-harm and suicide risks.

Working in youth justice has perhaps never been as demanding as in the last two years, with the Covid pandemic not only affecting our service users but also our team members. Supporting the wellbeing of our staff and volunteers will continue to be a priority in 2022/23, attending to relationships within the team as well as with children, parents/carers, victims and other professionals.

Board Development

As mentioned above, the DCYJS inspection self-assessment identified some areas where the work of the Partnership Board could be strengthened. In December 2021 the Youth Justice Board published updated guidance for YJS Partnership Boards, 'Youth Justice Service Governance and Leadership'.

In addition to its quarterly meetings, the DCYJS Partnership Board will hold a development session in June 2022 to review the key messages from the national

guidance and from the local self-assessment, as well as taking time to consider the service's priorities and arrangements for the coming years.

Details of the current membership and attendance of the DCYJS Partnership Board are included in Appendix One.

12. Evidence-based practice and innovation

DCYJS service developments in recent years have included the addition of Speech and Language expertise to the team in 2018 and the implementation of the Trauma Recovery Model in 2020. Both these developments reflected growing evidence about the specific needs of children in the youth justice system.

One of the messages from our conversations with local young people who have been sentenced or remanded to custody was that the crucial and memorable element for them was their relationship with their YJS worker, not the interventions and resources used by the worker. This echoes evidence that has accrued over the years, in a number of settings, that the quality of the relationship is the most important factor in supporting positive change. Building a balanced, trusting and consistent working relationship with a child in the youth justice system is not innovative but it is skilled, difficult and evidence-based work. Understanding a child's communication needs and the impact of their past experiences increases the chances of success in this work.

During 2021/22, working in the context of the Covid pandemic, DCYJS have introduced practice improvements to increase the effectiveness of our work including:

- Semi-structured interviews with young people who have been in custody to gain their views about how DCYJS and other local services could improve our work
- Use of virtual working to strengthen links between DCYJS practitioners and children in care placed out of our area
- Improved transition arrangements for young people entering adult services, supported by the DCYJS Probation Officer
- Increasing and diversifying DCYJS Police Officers' contacts with young people and parents to build trust
- Development of a DCYJS approach to improve restorative work for offences against emergency workers
- Increased use and consistent format for trauma-informed case consultations with the DCYJS health team
- Changing DCYJS practice to hold multi-agency Risk Assessment Panels for all weapons offences, not just those where the child is assessed as posing a High Risk of Serious Harm to others.

13. Looking forward

The strategic priorities and plans for the DCYJS partnership are set out in section 11. A more detailed action plan is used within the service to support this work.

While noting the concerns, risks and issues described in section 10 of this document, the intention of the DCYJS Partnership Board and the DCYJS staff group is that the coming year will see further improvements in the number of children entering the justice system, in how young people from over-represented groups are treated in our local youth justice system and in the efficiency and quality of our partnership work. For those young people

who do require support from DCYJS we will work collaboratively with them, making it easier for them to engage with our service and supporting them to access activities that will enable them to repair harm, enhance their education and skills and develop their strengths and abilities.

14. Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board - name	Theresa Leavy
Signature	
Date	

15. Appendix 1

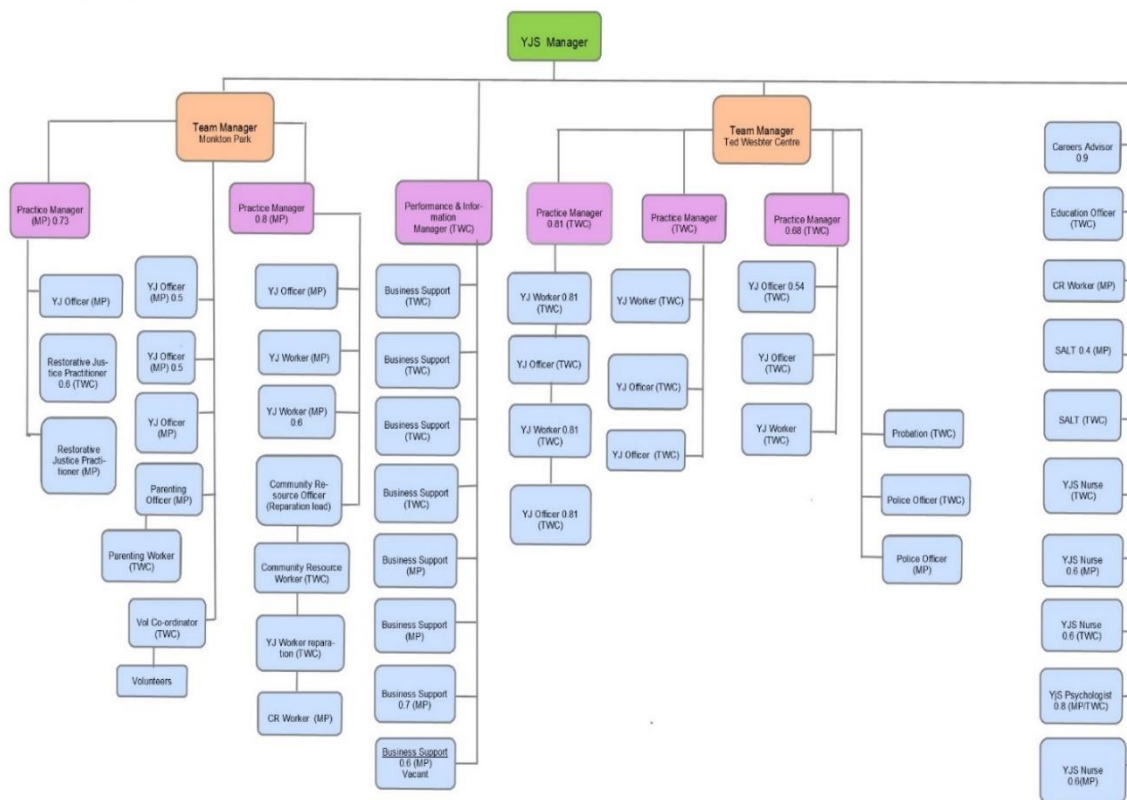
The following table shows the membership and attendance of the DCYJS Partnership Board:

Organisation	Current Post Holder	Board Member	Title	23/04/2021	16/07/2021	05/11/2021	21/01/2022	Key
Ansburry	Nicola Newman	Y	Chief Executive, Ansburry Guidance			N/A	N/A	Attendance Non attendance Deputy sent Papers circulated and comments sought in advance
BCP Council DCS	Elaine Redding	Y	Corporate Director Children's Services					Membership ceased in July 2021
BCP Council CSC	Brian Relph/Jane White	Y	Head of Children & Young People Social Care					
BCP Council Education	Sarah Rempel	Y	Director, Family and Inclusion Services, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	N/A	N/A			
BCP Council Finance	Stephen MacDonald/Jo Collis-Heavens	Y	Senior Accountant, Children's Services					
Clinical Commissioning Group	Elaine Hurl	Y	Senior Commissioning Manager, Mental Health					
Dorset Council DCS	Theresa Leavy (Chair)	Y	Executive Director for People - Children					
Dorset Council CSC	Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Y	Corporate Director Care and Protection					
Dorset Council Education	Mark Blackman/Vik Verma	N	Corporate Director, Education and Learning					
Dorset Healthcare Trust	Lisa White/Clare Hurley	Y	Clinical Services Manager, Bournemouth & Christchurch CAMHS					
Dorset Magistrates Youth Panel chair	Caroline Foster	Y	Chair, Dorset Magistrates Youth Panel					
Dorset Police	Jan Steadman	Y	Head of Criminal Justice and Custody					
Dorset Police	Kerry Shelley	Y	Head of Youth Services / Acting Inspector, Dorset Police Youth Justice Team					
HM Court Services	Jane Dunmall	Y	Legal Advisor			N/A	N/A	Membership cased July 2021
National Probation Service	Toni Shepherd	Y	National Probation Service Dorset					
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	Lewis Gool/Helen Fletcher	Y	Grants and Commissioning Officer					
Public Health Dorset	Nicky Cleave	Y	Assistant Director for Public Health					
YJS BCP Council	David Webb	Y	Service Manager, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service					
Youth Justice Board	Kate Langley	Y	Head of Innovation and Engagement YJB and Head of South-West and South-Central regions					

16. Appendix 2 – Service Structure Chart

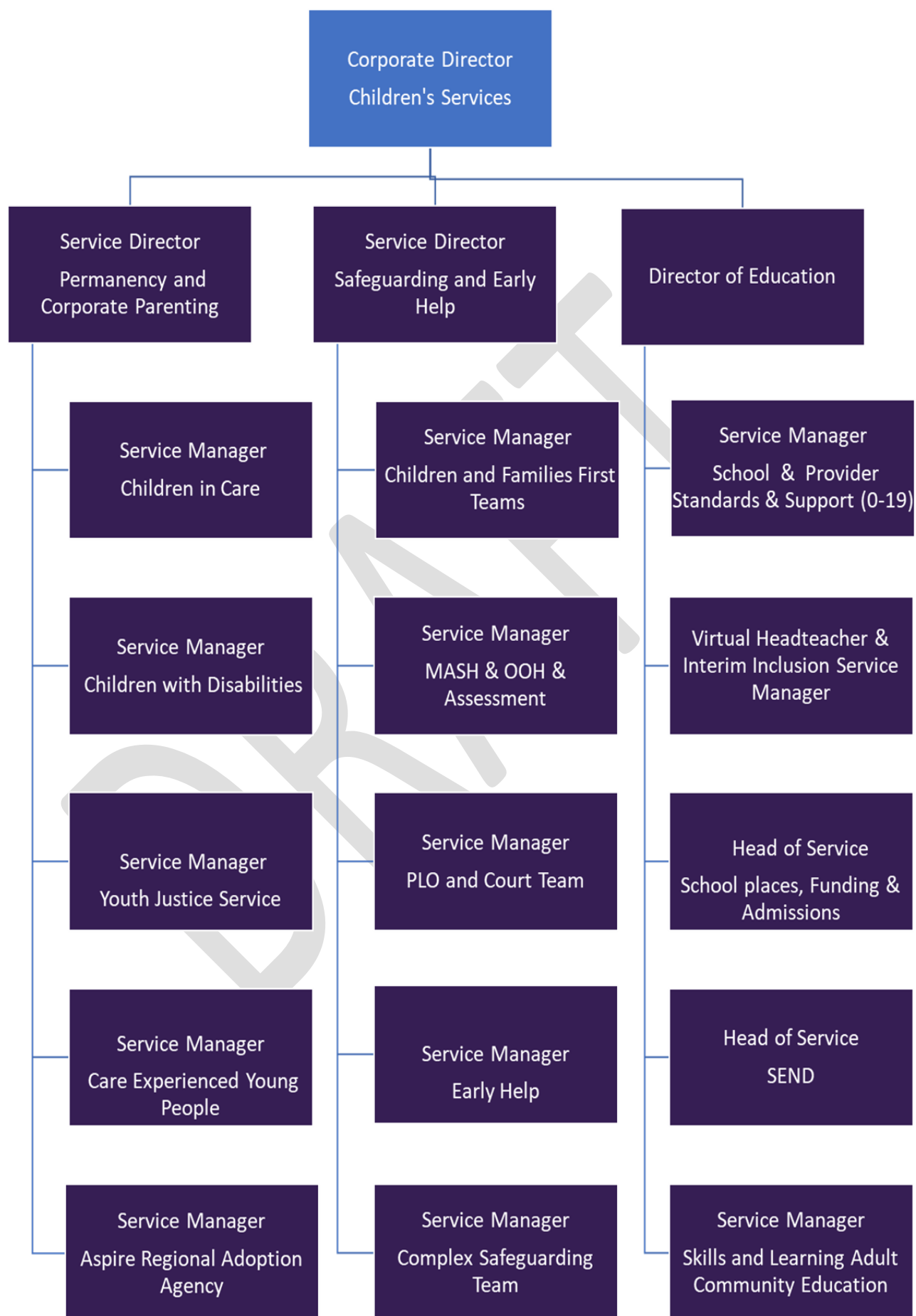
The following structure charts show the staffing structure of Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service and where the service sits in the two local authorities.

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service - YJS Structure



Dorset Combined
Youth Justice Service
January 2022

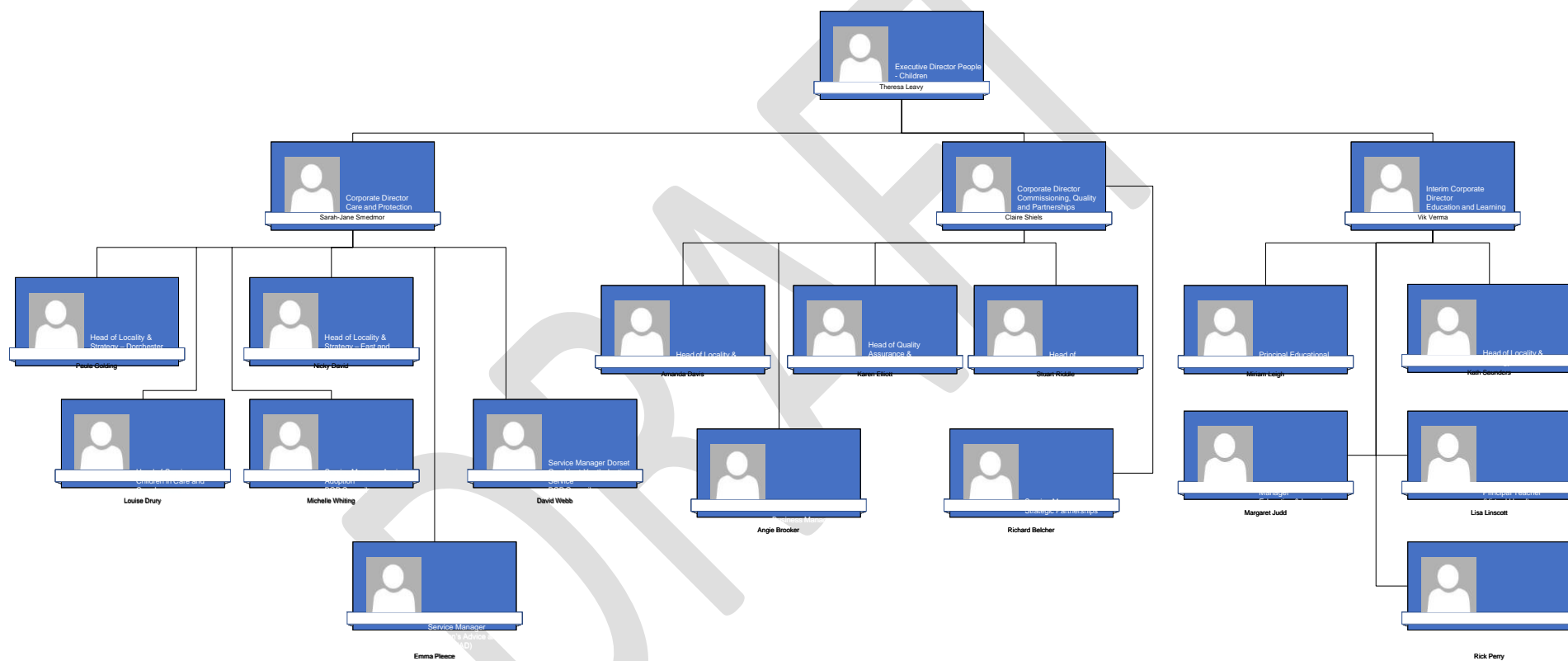
BCP Council Children's Services Extended Leadership Team:



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Children's Services Extended Leadership Team



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DCYJS Staff and Volunteers:

The following table shows the gender and ethnicity of DCYJS staff members and volunteers:

Ethnicity	Female staff members	Male staff members	Female volunteers	Male volunteers	Total
White British	38	11	13	6	68
White Other	1	1	1	1	4
Mixed Heritage	1	0	0	0	1

Five staff members in DCYJS are recorded as having a disability.

Common youth justice terms

Please add any locally used terminology

ACE	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Anti social behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
CCE	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
Child looked-after	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for

	low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
EHCP	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, training or employment
EHE	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
EOTAS	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal
HMIP	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
JAC	Junior Attendance Centre
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
NRM	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
OOCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
Outcome 22/21	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
Over-represented children	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
SLCN	Speech, Language and communication needs
STC	Secure training centre

SCH	Secure children's home
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJS	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
YOI	Young offender institution

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Audit & Governance Committee

Report Subject	Treasury Management Monitoring Outturn 2021/22 and update for Quarter 1 2022/23
Meeting date	28 July 2022
Status	Public
Executive summary	<p>This report sets out the monitoring of the Council's Treasury Management function for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.</p> <p>A surplus of £745k has been achieved through a reduced need to carry out temporary borrowing due to high cash balances generated from funding associated with the government's response to the pandemic as well as increasing interest rates earned on the Council's investments.</p> <p>The report also sets out the Quarter One performance for 2022/23 which forecasts an underspend of £840k due to the increase in interest rates.</p> <p>Further to the standard update the report seeks approval to increase our borrowing headroom in line with the proposal set out in the financial strategy supporting the proposed 2022/23 budget as endorsed by Cabinet.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is recommended that Audit & Governance Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) note the reported activity of the Treasury Management function for 2021/22 2) note the reported activity of the Treasury Management function for April to June 2022 3) note and endorse the update on borrowing set out from paragraph 25-35 4) approve and recommend to Council the revised prudential indicators set out in table 9.
Reasons for recommendations	<p>It is a requirement under the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code of Practice that regular monitoring of the Treasury Management function is reported to Members.</p> <p>Council are required to approve any changes to the prudential indicators based on a recommendation from the Audit & Governance Committee.</p>
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader, Finance & Transformation

Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Service Director	Adam Richens - Chief Financial Officer
Classification	For information and recommendation
Report author	Matthew Filmer, Assistant Chief Financial Officer ☎ 01202 128503 ✉ matthew.filmer@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Background Detail

1. Treasury Management is defined as the management of the Council's cash flows, its borrowings and investments, the management of the associated risks and the pursuit of the optimum performance or return consistent with those risks.
2. The Treasury Management function operates in accordance with The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) 'Treasury Management in the Public Services' Code of Practice (2011).
3. The Treasury Management function manages the Council's cash flow by exercising effective cash management and ensuring that the bank balance is as close to nil as possible. The objective is to ensure that bank charges are kept to a minimum whilst maximising interest earned. A sound understanding of the Council's business and cash flow cycles enables funds to be managed efficiently.
4. This report considers the treasury management activities in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy. Also included is a summary of the current economic climate, an overview of the estimated performance of the treasury function, an update on the borrowing strategy, investments and compliance with prudential indicators.

Economic Background

5. The 15 June 2022 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting voted by a majority of 6-3 to increase rates from 1% to 1.25%, pushing them to the highest level in 13 years.
6. The MPC noted UK GDP growth was expected to slow sharply over the first half of the forecast period and, although the labour market was expected to tighten slightly further in the near term, the unemployment rate was projected to rise to 5½% in three years' time. CPI inflation was expected to average slightly over 10% at its peak in 2022 Q4. Conditioned on the rising market-implied path for Bank Rate at that time and the MPC's forecasting convention for future energy prices, CPI inflation was projected to fall to a little above the 2% target in two years' time, largely reflecting the waning influence of external factors, and to be well below the target in three years, mainly reflecting weaker domestic pressures. The risks to the inflation projection were judged to be skewed to the upside at these points.
7. The UK latest inflation rate hit 9.1% in the year to May, the highest rate for 40 years. The Bank of England has warned inflation might reach 11% within months, as the prices of fuel, energy and food put pressure on household budgets.

8. The rate is higher than the Bank of England's 2% inflation target mainly reflecting previous large increases in global energy and other tradable goods prices. The former has been greatly exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, which has also raised significantly the wholesale price of many agricultural commodities. The latter mainly reflects the impact of the pandemic, which shifted demand towards goods but also impaired and disrupted supply chains.

Interest Rates

9. Table 1 below which is produced by the authority's treasury consultants Link Asset Services sets out their current projection of interest rates over the medium term.

Table 1: Interest rate projection (Link Asset Services)

Interest Rate Forecasts								
Bank Rate	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24
Link	1.75%	2.25%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.50%	2.50%
Cap Econ	1.75%	2.25%	2.50%	2.75%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
5Y PWLB RATE								
Link	3.20%	3.30%	3.30%	3.30%	3.30%	3.20%	3.10%	3.00%
Cap Econ	3.40%	3.80%	3.70%	3.60%	3.50%	3.50%	3.30%	3.20%
10Y PWLB RATE								
Link	3.40%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.40%	3.30%	3.20%
Cap Econ	3.60%	3.80%	3.80%	3.70%	3.60%	3.60%	3.50%	3.30%
25Y PWLB RATE								
Link	3.70%	3.70%	3.70%	3.70%	3.70%	3.70%	3.60%	3.50%
Cap Econ	3.70%	3.80%	3.80%	3.80%	3.80%	3.70%	3.60%	3.50%
50Y PWLB RATE								
Link	3.40%	3.40%	3.50%	3.50%	3.40%	3.40%	3.30%	3.20%
Cap Econ	3.60%	3.80%	3.80%	3.70%	3.70%	3.70%	3.60%	3.50%

Treasury Management Performance 2021/22

10. Table 2 below shows the final overall treasury management position for 2021/22. Investment income overachieved the budget set for 2021/22 by £260k. This was down to increasing interest rates being earned on the Council investments as well as having higher cash balances than forecasted.
11. The interest paid on borrowing was £485k under budget. Despite the Council taking out new PWLB borrowing of £25m in August 2021, this was at a historically low rate, far lower than assumed in the budget. An additional £17m was borrowed in November 2021 following a switch of loans held by both loans' pools between the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund.

Table 2: Treasury Management Performance 2021/22

	Actuals 2021/22 £'000	Budget 2021/22 £'000	Variance 2021/22 £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Interest Paid on Borrowings	2,696	3,181	(485)
<u>Income</u>			
Investment Interest Received	(305)	(45)	(260)
Total	2,391	3,136	(745)

Borrowing

12. The Council has adopted a two-pool approach to debt management, separating the debts of the General Fund (Pool 1) and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (Pool 2). The HRA pool is a combination of both the Poole and Bournemouth Neighbourhood HRA accounts.
13. Table 3 below shows the closing level of borrowing for the Council's two loans pool.

Table 3: Council Borrowings as at 31 March 2022

Initial Loan Value £'000	Interest Rate	Balance as at 31 Mar 2022 £'000	Maturity Date	General Fund Pool £'000	HRA Pool £'000	Source
Short Term Borrowing						
2,000	8.00%	2,000	25-Nov-2022	-	2,000	PWLB
2,000		2,000		-	2,000	
Long Term Borrowing						
5,000	2.66%	625	22-Aug-2023	-	625	PWLB
5,000	4.45%	5,000	24-Sep-2030	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	4.45%	5,000	24-Nov-2031	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	4.75%	5,000	24-Sep-2032	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	4.45%	5,000	24-Nov-2032	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	4.75%	5,000	24-Sep-2033	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	4.60%	5,000	23-Feb-2035	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	4.72%	5,000	22-Aug-2036	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	2.80%	5,000	20-Jun-2041	5,000	-	PWLB
5,000	2.80%	5,000	20-Jun-2041	5,000	-	PWLB
10,000	1.83%	10,000	22-Jul-2046	10,000	-	PWLB
2,500	6.75%	2,500	06-Mar-2056	-	2,500	PWLB
1,500	6.75%	1,500	13-Mar-2057	-	1,500	PWLB
1,500	5.88%	1,500	07-Mar-2058	-	1,500	PWLB
42,488	3.48%	42,488	28-Mar-2062	-	42,488	PWLB
43,908	3.48%	43,908	28-Mar-2062	-	43,908	PWLB
17,000	1.54%	17,000	17-May-2068	17,000	-	PWLB
12,500	1.56%	12,500	16-Aug-2068	12,500	-	PWLB
12,500	1.55%	12,500	16-Aug-2069	12,500	-	PWLB
193,896		189,521		62,000	127,521	
49,000	2.83%	48,747	24-May-2068	48,747	-	Phoenix Life Limited
22,625	2.26% + RPI Annually	16,289	17-Oct-2039	16,289	-	Prudential Assurance Co
3,673	0.00%	255	01-Apr-2023	255	-	Salix
271,194		256,812		127,291	129,521	

14. Table 4 below shows the closing level of the Council Capital Financing Requirement and how that is made up of actual external borrowing and what the level of under borrowing.

Table 4: Council Capital Financing Requirement 31 March 2022

	General Fund £000	HRA £000	Total £000
External Borrowing	127,291	129,521	256,812
Internal Borrowing (under borrowing)	216,107	3,710	219,817
Capital Financing Requirement	343,398	133,231	476,629

Investments

15. During the year, cash surpluses are invested by the Treasury Management team through direct dealing or money brokers with approved counterparties. The Council's counterparty list i.e. the list of organisations that it has been agreed that the Council can invest with has become increasingly restricted in recent years due to the economic climate and the criteria used to select appropriate organisations.
16. A full list of investments held by the authority as of 31 March 2022 is shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Investment Summary as at 31 March 2022

Investments	Maturity Date	Principal Amount £	Interest %
<u>Fixed Term Deposits</u>			
Landesbank Hessen Thuringen	19-Apr-2022	25,150,000	0.73%
Cornwall Council	25-Apr-2022	10,000,000	0.60%
Close Brothers	24-May-2022	15,000,000	0.40%
Goldman Sachs International Bank	17-Jun-2022	15,000,000	0.47%
Goldman Sachs International Bank	30-Jun-2022	9,000,000	0.52%
Goldman Sachs International Bank	16-Aug-2022	13,000,000	1.20%
Close Brothers	29-Sep-2022	10,000,000	1.20%
Sub Total		97,150,000	
<u>Call Account</u>			
Santander UK	120 day notice	22,825,000	0.50%
HSBC Sterling Liquidity Fund	instant access	29,975,000	0.56%
Total		149,950,000	

17. The Treasury Management function has continued to achieve higher average returns of 0.20% for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 for its combined investment compared to the SONIA overnight rate of (0.15%).

Treasury Management Performance 2022/23

18. Table 6 below shows the overall treasury management position for 2022/23. The current forecast is an underspend of £840k on interest receivable budgets reflecting the increase in interest rates and still being in receipt of a number of significant grants from central government.

Table 6: Treasury Management performance 2022/23

	Forecast 2022/23 £'000	Budget 2022/23 £'000	Variance 2022/23 £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Interest Paid on Borrowings	3,199	3,199	0
<u>Income</u>			
Investment Interest Received	(885)	(45)	(840)
Total	2,314	3,154	(840)

Borrowing

19. Table 7 below shows the closing level of borrowing for the Council's two loans pool.

Table 7: Council Borrowings as at 30 June 2022

Initial Loan Value £'000	Interest Rate	Balance as at 30 June 2022 £'000	Maturity Date	General Fund Pool £'000	HRA Pool £'000	Source
Short Term Borrowing						
2,000	8.00%	2,000	25-Nov-2022	-	2,000	PWLB
3,673	0.00%	128	01-Apr-2023	128	-	Salix
5,673		2,128		128	2,000	
Long Term Borrowing						
5,000	2.66%	625	22-Aug-2023	-	625	PWLB
5,000	4.45%	5,000	24-Sep-2030	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	4.45%	5,000	24-Nov-2031	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	4.75%	5,000	24-Sep-2032	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	4.45%	5,000	24-Nov-2032	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	4.75%	5,000	24-Sep-2033	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	4.60%	5,000	23-Feb-2035	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	4.72%	5,000	22-Aug-2036	-	5,000	PWLB
5,000	2.80%	5,000	20-Jun-2041	5,000	-	PWLB
5,000	2.80%	5,000	20-Jun-2041	5,000	-	PWLB
10,000	1.83%	10,000	22-Jul-2046	10,000	-	PWLB
2,500	6.75%	2,500	06-Mar-2056	-	2,500	PWLB
1,500	6.75%	1,500	13-Mar-2057	-	1,500	PWLB
1,500	5.88%	1,500	07-Mar-2058	-	1,500	PWLB
42,488	3.48%	42,488	28-Mar-2062	-	42,488	PWLB
43,908	3.48%	43,908	28-Mar-2062	-	43,908	PWLB
17,000	1.54%	17,000	17-May-2068	17,000	-	PWLB
12,500	1.56%	12,500	16-Aug-2068	12,500	-	PWLB
12,500	1.55%	12,500	16-Aug-2069	12,500	-	PWLB
193,896		189,521		62,000	127,521	
49,000	2.83%	48,491	24-May-2068	48,491	-	Phoenix Life Limited
22,625	2.26% + RPI Annually	16,097	17-Oct-2039	16,097	-	Prudential Assurance Co
271,194		256,237		126,716	129,521	

Investments

20. A full list of investments held by the authority as at 30 June 2022 is shown in Table 8 below.

Table 8: Investment Summary as at 30 June 2022

Investments	Maturity Date	Principal Amount £	Interest %
<u>Fixed Term Deposits</u>			
Landesbank Hessen Thuringen	18-Jul-2022	25,150,000	1.00%
Goldman Sachs International Bank	16-Aug-2022	13,000,000	1.20%
Santander UK	24-Aug-2022	22,825,000	0.74%
Close Brothers	29-Sep-2022	10,000,000	1.20%
National Bank of Canada	11-Nov-2022	10,000,000	1.57%
Sub Total		80,975,000	
<u>Call Account</u>			
HSBC Sterling Liquidity Fund	instant access	27,595,000	1.14%
Total		108,570,000	

21. The Treasury Management function has continued to achieve higher average returns of 0.81% for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022 for its combined investment compared to the SONIA overnight rate of (0.86%).

Prudential Indicators

22. The Treasury Management Prudential Code Indicators were set as part of the 2021/22 & 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy. It can be confirmed that all indicators have been complied with during all of 2021/22 and the period 1 April 2022 to 31 June 2022.

Compliance with Policy

23. The Treasury Management activities of the Council are regularly audited both internally and externally to ensure compliance with the Council's Financial Regulations. The recent internal audit in January 2022 rated the Treasury Management function as "Reasonable" assurance which means that there is a sound control framework which is designed to achieve the service objectives, with key controls being consistently applied.
24. The Treasury Management Strategy requires that surplus funds are placed with major financial institutions but that no more than 25% (AA- Rated Institutions) or 20% (A to A- Rated) of the investment holding is placed with any one major financial institution at the time the investment takes place. It can be confirmed that the Treasury Management Strategy has been complied with during all of 2021/22 and the period 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022.

Update on changing regulations associated with debt

25. DLUHC have made it clear that local authorities taking on excessive risk and any non-compliance with the framework will see increased interventions from government potentially leading to caps on borrowing. DLUHC also made it clear that they planned to better constrain the risks associated with complex capital transactions. This included credit arrangements, such as PFI deals or income strips, and financial derivatives. These types of arrangement can carry more risk than traditional forms of financing and require the right expertise to support effective decisions and risk management.
26. As part of this tightening DLUHC on the 12 May 2022 announced as part of its Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, the proposal to address excessive risk arising from local authority investment and borrowing, while supporting local freedoms for investment. They propose a set metrics for local authorities including the following:
 - proportionality of debt compared to the financial resources at the disposal of the authority.
 - proportion of capital assets which are investments taken out to generate net financial return or profit.
 - Whether the authority is meeting its statutory duty to make sufficient provision for debt repayment.
 - proportion of debt held where the counterparty is not local or central government including credit arrangements and loans.
 - Any other metric specified by regulations made by the secretary of state
27. The proposals set out above also coincide with a further update to Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) guidance to address lending to authorities where there is a more than negligible risk of non-repayment. HM Treasury will be reviewing authorities that raise concerns and could mean limiting the loan term length generally offered or restricting lending altogether.
28. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill published on the 11 May 2022 proposes to amend the LG Act 2002 to give the Secretary of State powers to issue a “risk mitigation direction”. This could be issued if a council receives a section 114 notice, receives a capitalisation direction, or breaches one of the five capital risk thresholds set out above. Such directions could direct asset sales and limit council borrowing levels.

Increase the Councils Debt Threshold (Capital Financing Requirement)

29. As part of the financial strategy supporting the development of the 2022/23 budget the council in September 2021 approved a revision to its self-imposed debt threshold. This change recognised that our borrowing of £457m as of 31 March 2021, represented 160% of our Net Revenue Expenditure (NRE), and was towards the lower end of the third quarter when compared to upper tier authorities including metropolitan boroughs. The decision was to move our debt threshold to 257% of our NRE which would move the council to the mid-point average and

support a debt level of £855m. There were two main drivers for extending the Council's debt threshold.

1) To enable service-based capital expenditure to be financed from debt with the cost spread over the time-period that will benefit from the expenditure.

2) To support the big plan objective including the delivery of regeneration and housing business cases which will provide an ongoing resource base for the authority, as a minimum, once the borrowing is repaid.

30. As at the 31 March 2022 the Council has increased its current actual borrowing position to £487m and has now committed over the five-year period to 31 March 2027 to using all the current £855m threshold including those decisions outlined in May 2022 Cabinet and Council reports. This includes decisions in respect of the Futures Fund £50m, Carters Quay £46m, Green Futures Fund £20m, SEND Capital £10m, the multi-year investments in the Council New Build and Housing Acquisition Strategy, and the capitalisation of neighbourhood highway maintenance up to and including 2025/26.
31. The proposal now is to increase the Council debt threshold to £1.334bn which will represent 387% of our NRE and position us at the top of the 3rd quarter when compared to upper tier authorities including metropolitan boroughs (see Appendix 1). This headroom will provide the Council with a further £479m to support delivery of its Big Plan. It will be allocated based on prudent business cases that take account of risk, support the levelling up agenda, and will be particularly focused on the delivery of housing or extra care housing related schemes, be that via the councils housing revenue account, or any BCP FuturePlaces Ltd or Bournemouth Development Company LLP led projects. It will not be invested in any commercial for yield activity.
32. Self-imposed debt levels are set against the Councils Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). Such levels are a requirement of the CIPFA Prudential Code and link into the prudential indicators agreed by Council based on recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee who are responsible for the Treasury Management Strategy.
33. The recommended new indicators are as follows:

Table 9: Revised Treasury Indicators: limits to borrowing activity

	2021/22 Estimate £m	2022/23 Estimate £m	2023/24 Estimate £m	2024/25 Estimate £m
Operational boundary	797	855	1,334	1,334
Authorised limit	847	905	1,384	1,384

34. Recognising the acute financial challenges in the Councils current and future year budgets and demonstrating fiscal discipline it is recommend that no further borrowing is undertaken which is not supported by a self-funding business case. Therefore, it is recommended that no further commitments to debt be taken on which would require the general fund budget of the council to finance the revenue implications of taking on that additional debt.

35. The Chief Financial Officer supports utilising the opportunity afforded by borrowing on the basis that as a principle it ensures the cost of various capital projects are spread over the time periods that are anticipated to benefit from the investment. But all estimates for capital expenditure must prove to be affordable, prudent, and sustainable. In addition, schemes such as those to reduce homelessness or create extra care housing schemes should significantly reduce the annual operating expenditure of the authority. Schemes such as the Poole Bay beach master plan meet a key principle of the council's capital strategy by leveraging in high levels of inward investment via government grant funding. Over and above this any schemes should ensure they adhere to the ever-tightening regulatory framework set down by government and be supported by strong, robust financial business cases. To emphasise the point already made in the report the CFO would not support any further debt being undertaken which would require the general fund budget of the council to finance the revenue implications of taking on that additional debt. Councillors also need to be cognisant of the perception created if Council was to choose to have debt levels above those of similar local authorities.

Summary of Financial/Resource Implications

36. Financial implications are as outlined within the report.

Summary of Legal Implications

37. There are no known legal implications.

Summary of Equalities and Diversity Impact

38. The Treasury Management activity does not directly impact on any of the services provided by the Council or how those services are structured. The success of the function will have an impact on the extent to which sufficient financial resources are available to fund services to all members of the community.

Summary of Risk Assessment

39. The Treasury Management Policy seeks to consider and minimise various risks encountered when investing surplus cash through the money markets. The aim in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management is to place a greater emphasis on the security and liquidity of funds rather than the return gained on investments. The main perceived risks associated with treasury management are discussed below.

Credit Risks

40. Risk that a counterparty will default, fully or partially, on an investment placed with them. There were no counterparty defaults during the year to date, the Council's position is that it will invest the majority of its cash in the main UK Banks which are considered to be relatively risk adverse and have been heavily protected by the UK Government over the last few years. The strategy is being constantly monitored and may change if UK Bank Long Term ratings fall below acceptable levels.

Liquidity Risks

41. Aims to ensure that the Council has sufficient cash available when it is needed. This was actively managed throughout the year and there are no liquidity issues to report.

Re-financing Risks

42. Managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments (borrowings) as and when they mature. The Council continues to monitor premiums and discounts in relation to redeeming debt early. Only if interest rates result in a discount that will benefit the Council would early redemption be considered.

Interest Rate Risks

43. Exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. The Council is protected from rate movements once a loan or investment is agreed as the vast majority of transactions are secured at a fixed rate.

Price Risk

44. Relates to changes in the value of an investment due to variation in price. The Council does not invest in Gilts or any other investments that would lead to a reduction in the principal value repaid on maturity.

Background papers

45. Treasury Management report to Full Council on 22 February 2022
<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/documents/g4812/Public%20reports%20pack%2022nd-Feb-2022%2019.00%20Council.pdf?T=10>

Appendices

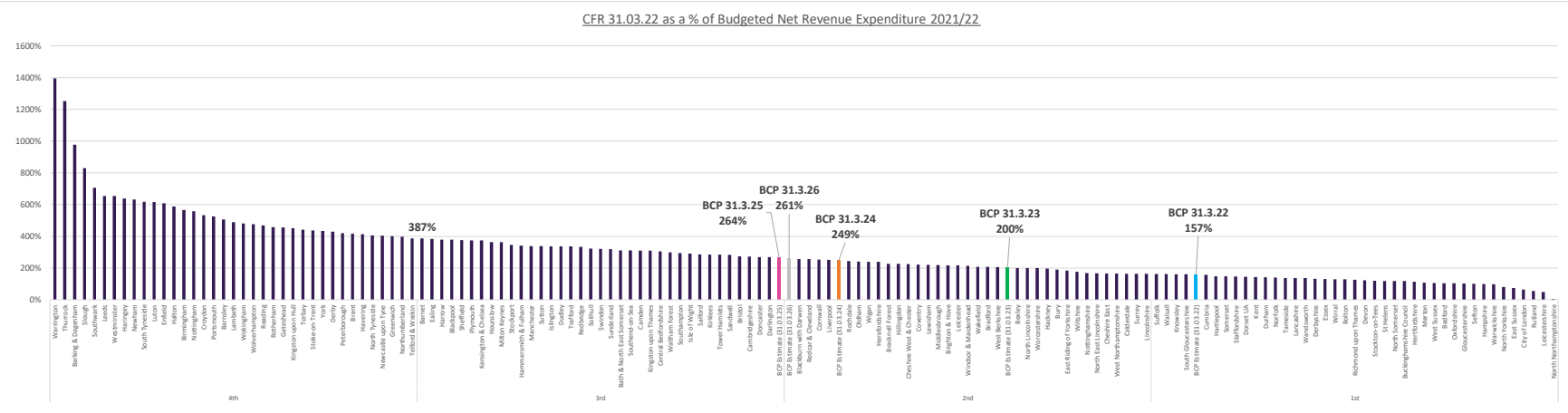
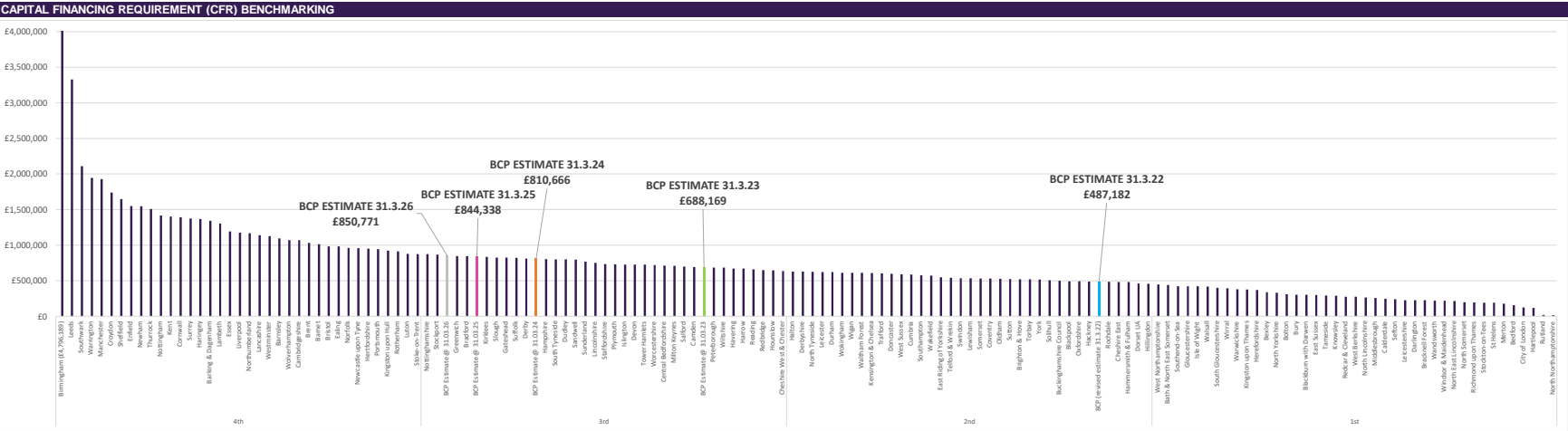
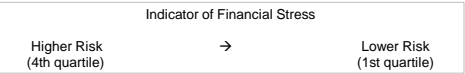
Appendix 1 - BCP Council Debt Benchmarking

Appendix 2 – Details of capital commitment against the debt ceiling

APPENDIX 1: Benchmarking - Capital Financing Requirement (Debt)

COMPARISON GROUP: ALL UPPER TIER AUTHORITIES (INC. LONDON BOROUGHS)

Source data: CER C 2021-22: Prudential system information by authority & category, England, 2021-22
Local Authority Revenue Account (RA) (Budget) Return 2021-22



CFR HEADROOM

	31/03/2022	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2025	31/03/2026
Estimated CFR	£487,182	£688,169	£810,666	£844,338	£850,771
Headroom (@ £855m)	£367,818	£166,831	£44,334	£10,662	£4,229
Headroom (@ £1.33bn)	£846,764	£645,777	£523,280	£489,608	£483,175

387% net revenue expenditure, based on 2022/23 budget £1,333,946

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Appendix 2 - Approved Capital Schemes and known commitments

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Regeneration schemes						
Carter's Quay	12,201	19,000	4,868			36,069
Winter Gardens		44,441				44,441
Holes Bay	707					707
Pokesdown Station	1,850	750				2,600
Smart Places Gigabit Fibre	2,085	1,890	1,890			5,865
Wessex Fields highways works	1,600					1,600
sub-total	18,443	66,081	6,758	0	0	91,282
Council Newbuild & Acquisitions Strategy (CNHAS)						
Temporary accommodation	5,994					5,994
CNHAS - residential street properties	1,804	12,235	10,650	10,555		35,244
CNHAS - Care Experience Young People (CEYP)	850					850
CNHAS - Private Rented Sector (PRS)	1,500					1,500
CNHAS Alma Road (former GP surgery)	570	1,520	1,710			3,800
CMHAS Oakdale	660	1,530	2,180			4,370
CNHAS Roeshot Hill PRS	6,095					6,095
CNHAS Crescent Road	1,623					1,623
CNHAS Princess Road (hostel and PRS)	11,604	2,205				13,809
CNHAS HRA Moorside Road	1,301					1,301
CNHAS HRA Cabbage Patch	1,255					1,255
CNHAS HRA Wilkinson Drive	1,467	253				1,720
CNHAS HRA Northbourne	853					853
CNHAS HRA Craven Court	1,241	1,705				2,946
CNHAS HRA Templeman House	296	1,201				1,497
CNHAS HRA Mountbatten Gardens	26					26
CNHAS HRA Princess Road	3,685	5,829				9,514
CNHAS HRA Duck Lane	1,219	428				1,647
CNHAS HRA Surrey Road	240	406	966			1,612
CNHAS HRA 43 Bingham Road	370					370
CNHAS HRA Roeshot Hill (shared and affordable)	4,304					4,304
CNHAS HRA Cynthia House	2,894					2,894
CNHAS HRA Herbert Avenue	2,221					2,221
CNHAS HRA Hillbourne	3,240	3,902	5,916	953	153	14,164
CNHAS HRA Oakdale	1,920	4,490	6,420			12,830
CNHAS HRA Egmont Road	1,173					1,173
CNHAS HRA Redhorn Close	1,400					1,400
CNHAS HRA Dale Close	456					456
CNHAS HRA Lake Avenue	669					669
CNHAS HRA Junction Road	517					517
CNHAS HRA Cavan Crescent / Sopers Lane	1,414					1,414
sub-total	62,860	35,704	27,842	11,508	153	138,067
Seafront development						
Bistro on the beach	6,248					6,248
Canford Cliffs - new beach huts	3,119					3,119
Canford Cliffs - pavilion	1,142					1,142
Mudford Beach House Café	631					631
Festival Coast Live	198					198
Various other seafront	119					119
sub-total	11,458	0	0	0	0	11,458
Other						
Cleaner, Greener, Safer	653					653
Highways maintenance - capitalised	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000
BIC medium term refurbishment	1,780					1,780
Muscliff natural burial ground	110					110
ICT investment plan	492					492
Various other coast protection	122					122
St Stephen's homelessness hub	679					679
sub-total	4,835	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	8,835

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Total £000
Schemes underway						
Fleet replacement	16,375	4,900				21,275
Poole Park Railway	200					200
BCP civic centre	4,139					4,139
Transformation programme (capital)	4,351					4,351
Estates maintenance (Bmouth pier, Russell Cotes, minor other)	129					129
Skills & Learning (relocation to Dolphin Centre)	743					743
Parkway House	329					329
Street lighting investment	320					320
Various Children's (Hillbourne and Carter)	1,587	70				1,657
Various transportation	47					47
Various other environment (King's Prk athletics, Lwr Gdns Aviary)	63					63
Various other adults	30					30
sub-total	28,312	4,970	0	0	0	33,282
Schemes leveraging in significant external funding						
Poole Bay beach management plan				2,282	1,758	4,040
Rossmore & Two Rivers Meet artificial pitch	727					727
Poole Museum - Our Museum Project	793					793
Scaplen's Court	180					180
Russell Cotes urgent repair works	213					213
Poole & Bournemouth Crematoria	546					546
Fernheath playing fields	100					100
sub-total	2,559	0	0	2,282	1,758	6,599
Total approved prudential borrowing	128,466	107,755	35,600	14,790	2,911	289,522
Other known commitments						
Futures Fund	15,965	7,360	8,110	10,000		41,435
SEND Reserve	10,000					10,000
Green Fund	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	20,000
BDC - Cotlands Car Park (York Road multi storey)		11,400				11,400
sub-total	29,965	22,760	12,110	14,000	4,000	82,835
Total Approved and committed borrowing	158,431	130,515	47,710	28,790	6,911	372,357

CABINET



Report subject	Wessex Fields Site- University Hospital Dorset Link Road and redevelopment update
Meeting date	7 September 2022
Status	Public Report with Confidential Financial Appendix
Executive summary	<p>On 16 December 2020 Cabinet agreed in principle to dispose of part of the Wessex Fields site to the adjoining landowner University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust (UHD) in partnership with Bournemouth University, to deliver their proposal for a strategically relevant development with a focus on medical technology, medical research and education. Cabinet authorised officers to negotiate the heads of terms for the disposal.</p> <p>A cabinet report dated 10 February 2021 outlined the terms of the disposal in a confidential appendix and highlighted that the purchase price had taken into consideration an obligation on the council to design, fund and build a new link road from the A338 through the Wessex Fields site to join hospital land, facilitating controlled access essential to their wider £250m transformation programme.</p> <p>The design of the new access route has been considered in the context of the wider master-planning of the site currently being progressed by BPC FuturePlaces (FuturePlaces) as this is a key site within their portfolio.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) provide an update on the progression of the master-planning and wider redevelopment of Wessex Fields and; 2) seek approval for additional budget allocation from the Futures Fund for the new link road due to construction industry inflation and an enhanced design based on completing more of the consented road scheme.
Recommendations	<p>Cabinet RECOMMEND that COUNCIL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approve the budget increase for the construction of the link road as detailed in Confidential appendix A. b) Approve that this additional amount is funded from the

	Council's Futures Fund.
Reason for recommendations	To fulfil our contractual obligations and deliver an improved highways infrastructure, improve connectivity with the hospital, and enhance the council's retained development land value at Wessex Fields.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Philip Broadhead, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning.
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Contributors	Sarah Longthorpe, Director of Delivery Regeneration
Wards	Littledown & Iford
Classification	For decision

Background

1. On 16 December 2020 Cabinet agreed to dispose of part of the Wessex Fields site (5.65 acres) to UHD as detailed in the plan at Appendix 1. This will enable the realisation of a Pathology Laboratory, currently being constructed on site and due for completion by Spring 2023. It also enables a new educational and research facilities to develop medical sciences and technologies, a high value growth sector.
2. The disposal, which was concluded on 31 March 2021 contained an obligation on the council to undertake and fund highways infrastructure works, for which we received an enhanced capital premium.
3. This included the construction of a new junction from Deansleigh Road and an access link road from the existing A338 slip road into the top of the hospital site.
4. The new link road enabling controlled access to the hospital for staff and service vehicles including ambulances is an essential part of UHD £250m investment in hospitals transformation programme which will be beneficial to the public and deliver better care in improved facilities. UHD aims to complete their transformation programme by 2026.
5. The development proposals at Bournemouth hospital include creating new purpose-built Births, Emergency and Critical care and children's health facilities, extensive refurbishments and creating a new pathology hub.
6. At the time of disposal Officers from Transport & Engineering reviewed the independent cost summary and were satisfied that the works required could be delivered within the budget however it was noted that, should the costs increase beyond this budget, the Council would have to cover any shortfall. This risk was set out in the risk assessment section of the 10 February 2021 Cabinet report.
7. The Council will be entering into a Development Management Agreement with UHD to design, secure planning and construct the road, either by direct procurement or via subcontractors with the council meeting the costs. The council is required to agree the design and approve the content of a planning application.

8. UHD engaged WSP to undertake initial design work and various road layout options and designs were considered. Both parties have now agreed a preferred route/design. The sale contract detailed an indicative layout as shown in Appendix 2 to facilitate UHD access only. The final design, and preferred option, is now based on constructing out more of the consented access road into the Wessex Fields development site, the roundabout for future proofing, and overall to a higher design specification as shown in Appendix 3.
9. The benefits of this design option means that wider site access is facilitated releasing developable land parcels at higher land values, due to the underlying highway infrastructure being in situ. However, due to an increase in construction costs as the road is designed to an adoptable standard, plus much higher inflation levels within the construction sector, the costs have increased above the allocated budget. This increase is detailed in the confidential appendix.
10. A key consideration in progressing the revised link road design will be how the planning position is treated. It is essential to review the implications of the design changes against the current Spine Road South/Grade Separate Junction consent. Careful consideration will need to be given as to whether this is an amendment to the existing application or a new application. Regeneration and Transport officers are currently considering the options available and will be seeking planning advice so as not to fetter the Council's position in this matter.
11. A further key consideration is that the trajectory and detailed design of the proposed road will serve future development aspirations enabling rational/technically viable development parcels and such that the detailing serves the future urban context that will be created.

Wessex Fields Redevelopment update

12. The Wessex Fields site is a key strategic development site for the council and is included in the portfolio of sites allocated to FuturePlaces to progress the masterplanning and redevelopment.
13. FuturePlaces has been engaged on the new link road and is supportive of the proposed design and has undertaken comprehensive engagement with internal stakeholders including Planning & Transport colleagues on the wider masterplan and infrastructure opportunities.
14. FuturePlaces has undertaken engagement with external stakeholders including Friends of the Elderly Nursing Home and UHD. All parties realise the benefit of the production of an overarching masterplan and are keen to engage in the process.
15. To progress a masterplan FuturePlaces will be hosting a design charette in October 2022. This will bring together the main landowners and ensure collaboration on the wider site development potential, maximising the site's use for educational and research facilities to develop medical sciences and technologies alongside key worker, elderly living and extra care housing. Consideration will also be given to environmental, social, economic and transport impacts of any masterplanning options.

16. Following this intensive design charette period it is anticipated that a reference masterplan will be formulated and agreed by the end of 2022 enabling completion of a detailed masterplan by Summer 2023. Once the uses, energy and infrastructure needs are identified, along with an indicative timeline, transport colleagues can consider the position with Western Gateway Strategic Transport plan for potential funding support for the 2025 to 2050 period.
17. The council has retained an option on the land hatched blue in appendix 4 exercisable between August – December 2023 so that, should this land be required for highways purposes following a comprehensive area masterplan, it could be re-acquired.
18. It is important to note that the preferred design for the new UHD link road could facilitate a through road solution whilst still enabling a grade separate junction in the future along the lines of the consented scheme, as well as providing access to the land required by exercising the option agreement in 2023.
19. An alternative access solution to the new pathology laboratory has been agreed and both parties have subsequently agreed to remove the Deansleigh Road Junction highway obligation and a budget adjustment will be made for this element.

Consultation

20. The site lies within the Littledown and Iford Ward. The Ward Councillors were consulted on the options presented in the Cabinet report dated 16 December 2020 and were supportive of the disposal of part of the site to UHD which included the highways obligations.
21. The increased budget request was reviewed by the Futures Infrastructure Programme Board on 15 July 2022. The board were supportive of the allocation of Futures Funds for this highways infrastructure requirement to enable development subject to the necessary council approvals.

Summary of financial implications

22. The initial costs of the highway infrastructure were outlined in a confidential appendix to the Cabinet report dated 10 February 2021. The additional financial implications are detailed in confidential Appendix A.

Summary of legal implications

23. The council disposed of the land at Wessex Fields in accordance with the statutory powers to dispose of this land under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, which gives a general power of disposal for the best consideration reasonable obtainable. The council retained vehicular access rights together with rights to lay services across any land sold to UHD, to facilitate future development of the site.
24. Cabinet on 10 February 2021 recommend to council to dispose of part of the land at Wessex Fields and delegated authority to the Corporate Property Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer to finalise the terms.

25. An Officer Decision record dated 31 March 2021 recorded the final agreed terms of the sale and option agreement and delegated authority to the Director of Development to agree the design and award of the Development Management Agreement to UHD to act on behalf of the council for the development of the link road.

Summary of sustainability impact

26. A Decision Impact Assessment was undertaken on 17 December 2020 and appended to the previous Cabinet report. The impact assessment related to the disposal of part of the site to UHD and the obligations to provide highways access and remains unchanged.
27. Any future design/ development is subject to planning consideration and will seek to maximise green space within the development and connectivity to the adjacent SSSI. Enhancing walkability and facilitating the adoption of sustainable modes will be key criteria of the reference masterplanning exercise and should be key considerations in the detailed design of an infrastructure within this site. As part of the A338 Wessex Fields link road installation, the relevant ecological survey was undertaken.
28. There are no public health implications as identified in the Environmental Statement.

Summary of equality implications

29. An Equality Impact Assessment screening tool has been completed and reviewed by the EIA Panel. Overall, the panel gave an Amber rating, but recognised the anticipated positive equality impacts identified and highlighted that there were no anticipated negative equality impacts. A copy of is attached in Appendix B.
30. It highlighted that the delivery of a new access road to UHD will have positive impact on the protected characteristics, principally Health, Education, Participation and Work. It will provide improved access for UHD staff to car parks and ambulances, improving response times in accordance with the Secretary of State for Health accepted NHS England's recommendation to implement new ambulance performance standards and it will assist drop offs. All of these factors in turn will improve public health and wellbeing in the community.
31. It is anticipated that the remainder of the site in BCP Council ownership, will be developed out to provide affordable/key worker housing recuperative and rehabilitative care accommodation and elderly living, local community facilities and medi-tech business capacity.

Summary of risk assessment

32. Cabinet should be mindful of the following specific risks attached to this proposal.
33. The financial risks associated with developing out the remainder of the site remain with the Council. Funds have been allocated to seek further professional, commercial and development advice as a matter of priority to determine how development of the remainder of the site is structured in the future to mitigate this risk and maximise returns.

34. The planning and design of the road to UDH is still subject to final design and a planning consent secured. Should the funding of the proposed road infrastructure exceed the budgeted allocation BCP Council would need to fund these increased costs. This has been mitigated by a 40% optimism bias applied for this element and a 10% contingency.
35. The delivery of the necessary highway's infrastructure works will need to be appropriately resourced by UHD under the development management agreement to ensure it is delivered within the agreed timescales.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – A338 Wessex Fields Disposal plan

Appendix 2 – Sale contract indicative UHD road layout

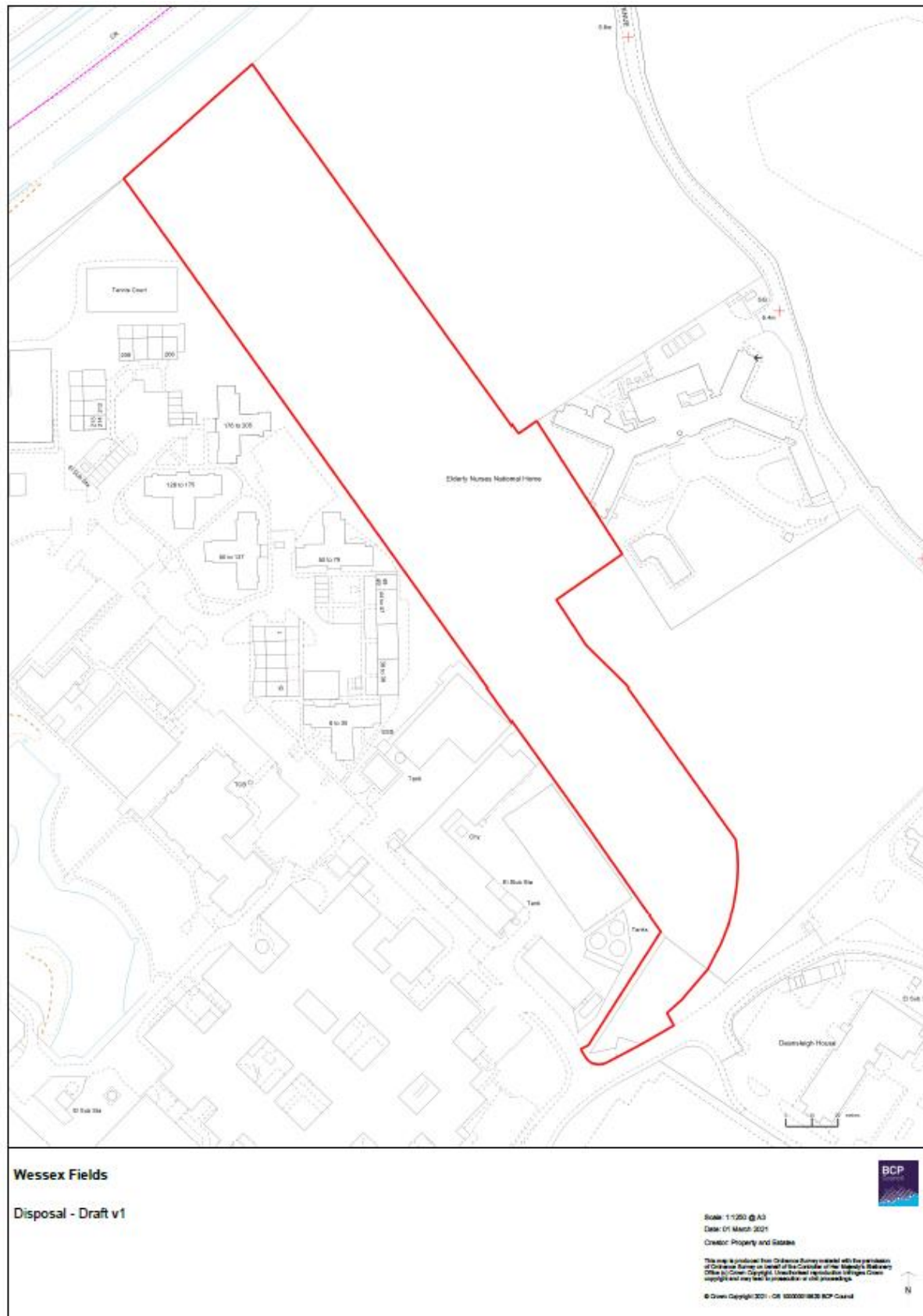
Appendix 3 – Proposed Road Design option

Appendix 4 – Wessex Fields – Plan of option land

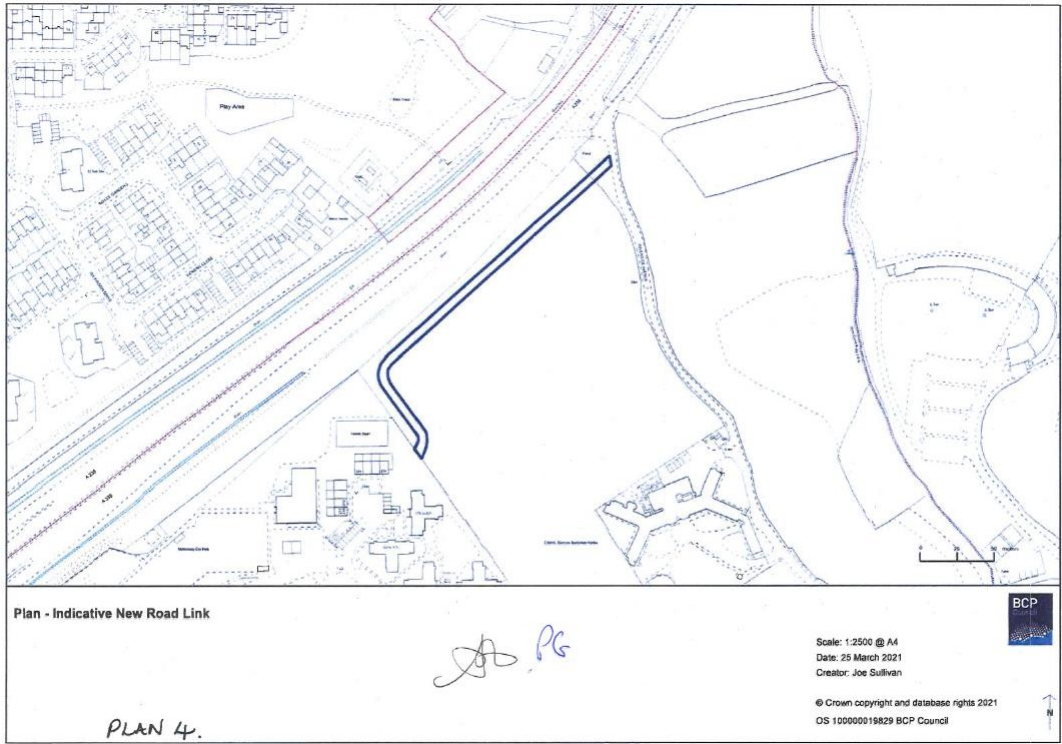
Appendix A – Confidential financial report

Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment screening tool

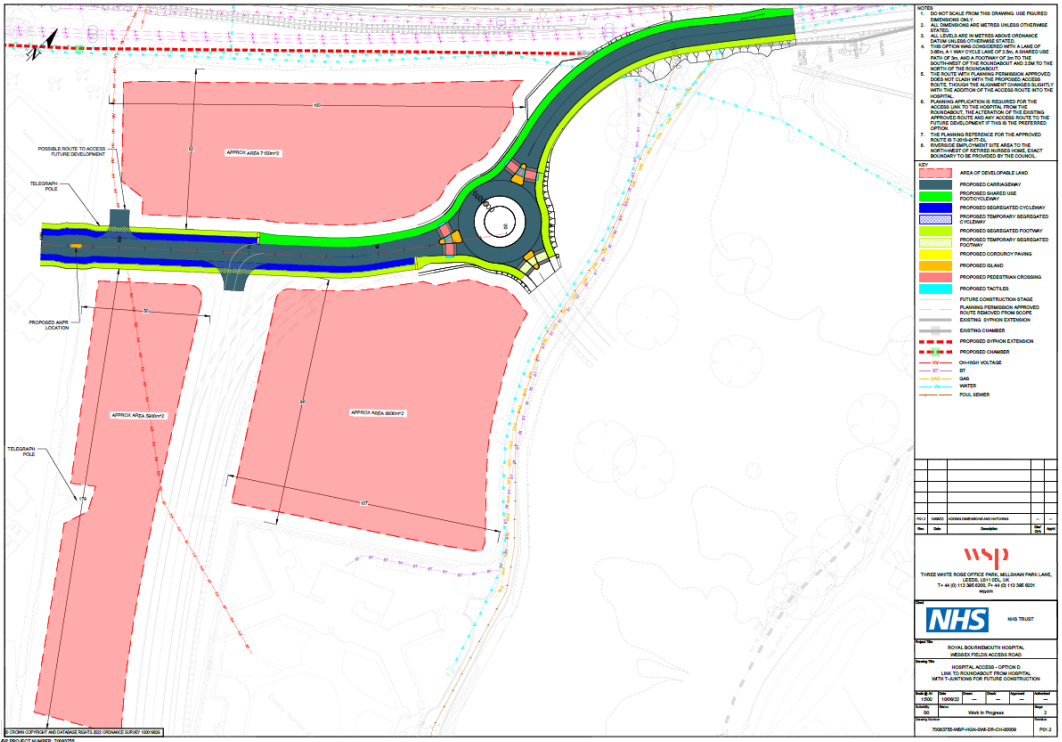
Appendix 1 - A338 Wessex Fields Disposal plan



Appendix 2 - Sale Contract indicative UHD road layout



Appendix 3 – Proposed Road Design option



Appendix 4 – Wessex Fields – Plan of option land



By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Equality Impact Assessment: Conversation Screening Tool

What is being reviewed?	Wessex Fields Site- University Hospital Dorset Link Road
What changes are being made?	This EIA is in relation to a request for an increase budget to fund an access road from the A338 to University Hospital Dorset at Wessex Fields.
Service Unit:	Delivery- Regeneration
Participants in the conversation:	Sarah Longthorpe- Director of Delivery-Regeneration, Sam Johnson- Policy & Performance Manager, Sonia Huda-Executive Assistant WSP Engineering
Conversation date/s:	Dec-2020- Aug 2022.
Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?	University Hospital Dorset staff Internal transport colleagues WSP Engineering
Do different groups have different needs or experiences?	The delivery of a new access road will provide an alternative access route for UHS staff and service vehicles including ambulances. This will service/benefit all groups, especially disabled individuals, and the elderly.
Will this change affect any service users?	No – it will facilitate access for UHD staff
What are the benefits or positive impacts of the change on current or potential users?	Positive impacts include improved access to UHD, increase capacity and access to parking spaces for employees who live with in the area . Increase access to employment for people with caring responsibilities. Reduce carbon emissions, reduce traffic thus improving health of local community.
What are the negative impacts of the change on current or potential users?	No negative impacts
Will the change affect employees?	it will benefit UHD employees it will have no impact on BCP employees.
Will the change affect the wider community?	Yes, it will have a positive impact as it will improve access to UHD for staff and service vehicles including ambulances. The UHD provides a wide range of public health benefits to the community. Ease traffic congestion and improve air quality in the local area, reduce carbon emissions.
What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by this change?	N/A
Summary of Equality Implications:	The delivery of a new access road to UHD will have positive impact on access to the Hospital and overall improve traffic in that area. The scheme will help UHD to deliver their proposal for a strategically relevant development with a focus on medical technology, medical research, and education. Cabinet authorized officers to negotiate the heads of terms for the disposal.

Form Version 1.2

CABINET



Report subject	Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Implementation
Meeting date	7 September 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>BCP Council has been successful in having an indicative grant award of £8.9m from the Department for Transport (DfT) to deliver it's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) over the next 3 years.</p> <p>The purpose of this paper is to seek Council approval to accept and invest the grant.</p>
Recommendations	<p>That Cabinet agrees and recommends to Council that it</p> <p>(a) Subject to confirmation of an award, accepts the £8.9m Bus Service Improvement Plan funding for the period 2022/3 to 2024/5 from the Department for Transport</p> <p>(b) Delegates delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to the Service Director for Transport and Engineering in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>(a) The Department for Transport (DfT) has indicated to the Council that it will very likely receive confirmation of the indicative award in Autumn 2022, therefore, approval is being sought to expedite investment of the funding so that the benefits can be realised sooner.</p> <p>(b) The investment of the BSIP funding is aligned with the Council's Corporate Strategy and the Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mike Greene, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Transport
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	<p>John McVey, Sustainable Transport Policy Manager</p> <p>Richard Pincroft, Head of Transportation including Sustainable Travel</p> <p>Julian McLaughlin, Service Director for Transport and Engineering</p>

Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. In accordance with 'Bus Back Better, a National Bus Strategy for England', on 30 June 2021 BCP Council committed to forming an Enhanced Partnership with the local bus operators and to jointly develop a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). To comply with DfT requirements, the [BSIP](#) was submitted by 31 October 2021, together with a funding request template to cover the period to 31 March 2025.
2. The original timescale set out by DfT required the Enhanced Partnership (EP) Plan and EP Scheme to be formed by the end of April 2022. The EP Plan has similar content to the BSIP and the EP Scheme sets out in detail what 'facilities' and 'measures' are to be delivered with the available funding to support buses and bus passengers.
3. At its meeting on 9 February 2022, Cabinet resolved to delegate authority to the Director of Transport and Engineering in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport to form the Enhanced Partnership.
4. In a letter dated 4 April 2022, DfT amended the submission date for the EP Plan and EP Scheme. A **draft** EP document was now to be submitted by 30 June 2022. The letter also stated that BCP Council had been awarded an indicative funding allocation up to **£8,858,430** (of which £6,104,639 is capital and £2,753,791 is revenue) to commence delivery of the BSIP. This covers the period from 2022/23 to 2024/25.
5. DfT is reviewing the draft EP Plan and Scheme documentation. It is possible that changes or additions may be requested before it confirms the funding allocation. Provided there is no significant variation in the funding award, the delivery programme will be adjusted under delegated authority by the Service Director for Transport and Engineering, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Transport. The funding issue will be dependent on the Enhanced Partnership being formed. It will be necessary to consult with the bus operators on the updated draft documentation. A short consultation with other stakeholders will also be required before the EP can finally be 'made'.
6. Since the publication of the BSIP and the drafting of the EP Plan and Scheme documentation, Bournemouth Transport went into Administration and subsequently ceased trading on the evening of 4 August 2022. Officers have worked closely with the bus operators to protect the bus network. Much of the commercial bus route network was quickly covered by Go South Coast T/A Morebus from Saturday 6 August. Tendered services are being operated on a temporary basis by Morebus and Eastleigh-based Xelabus, T/A Yellow Coaches.
7. The collapse of Bournemouth Transport is not expected to have a significant impact on the Enhanced Partnership and the delivery of the BSIP.

Proposed EP Scheme Facilities and Measures

8. DfT expect that the vast majority of the allocation is spent on bus priority, ambitious and attractive initiatives to reduce and simplify fares, and increased service frequencies and new or expanded routes.
9. In light of this, the draft EP Scheme proposes the following schemes and measures:
 - a) Six bus priority routes across Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch. Improvements will be introduced to speed up buses, making them more attractive to use and reducing the cost of operation. Passenger facilities including shelters, raised boarding kerbs and RTPI displays will also be provided.
 - b) Providing bus priority at a further 23 signalised junctions. Buses and bus passengers already benefit from priority at 42 signalised junctions. This will be increased to 65.
 - c) Additional bus shelters.
 - d) Additional Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) displays.
 - e) Poole Bus Station RTPI totems incorporating CCTV live-streamed to the council's Control Room to support passenger security.
 - f) Provide Mobility as a Service (MaaS) app to deliver multi-modal journey planning and single payment options. To include major bus operators; South Western Railway and Beryl bikeshare.
 - g) Targeted fares promotions to include route-specific offers with reduced fares plus other discounted travel events (e.g. pre-Christmas).
 - h) Multi operator daily capping as part of existing development 'Project Coral'
 - i) Increased frequencies/journeys on specific routes.
 - j) Increase the frequency of existing services so that they can run at reduced headway (e.g., hourly to every 30 minutes or half-hourly to every 20 minutes) to deliver effective passenger growth.
 - k) Across all services a daily capped fare will apply over a full day.
10. The implementation of these schemes would be in accordance with council Standing Orders and would be subject to the usual engagement and consultation where appropriate.
11. In addition, the EP Scheme includes a number of obligations on the Local Authority, for example, maintaining the existing bus priority, bus shelters and RTPI displays; managing roadworks; bus lane enforcement; multi-operator ticketing; integration with other modes; involving bus passengers; and supporting bus operators to recover following the C-19 pandemic.
12. Obligations on the bus operators include operating services in accordance with the published schedules and Traffic Commissioner requirements; standardised service change dates; driver training; referencing other operators' services in publicity material; ensuring multiple routes don't have the same number; continuing to offer child discounts without funding; minimum vehicle standards and vehicle investment; provision of data to the local authority; and, discuss proposed service changes with the council prior to implementation.
13. There are also joint obligations, for example, to introduce a Passenger Charter.

Options Appraisal

14. There are two possible options for Members to consider:
- a) Accept the £8.9m BSIP funding and implement the facilities and measures set out in the EP Scheme. This will help attract more passengers to bus services and make service operation more viable for the bus companies which in turn will reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and contribute to the council's carbon reduction targets (**Recommended**).
 - b) Decline the funding and have a much reduced opportunity to support buses and bus passengers. This will not find favour with the DfT and is likely to result in no further BSIP funding being offered (**Not Recommended**).

Summary of financial implications

15. The Council has been awarded an indicative funding allocation up to £8,858,430 (of which £6,104,639 is capital and £2,753,791 is revenue) to commence delivery of the BSIP. This covers the period from 2022/23 to 2024/25. An additional Local Transport Plan contribution of £2,031,667 will be allocated to support the capital elements of this programme over the three year period (Yr1 - £265,415, Yr2 - £905,001, Yr3 - £861,251).
16. A Bus Capacity Work revenue grant of £277,498 was paid in 2021/22 to support this work. It is understood that further capacity grants will be made available.
17. Where applicable the cost of additional support from Corporate Services will be recharged to the programme. For example, financial monitoring, procurement, communications.

Summary of legal implications

18. Enhanced Partnerships are statutory arrangements created by the Bus Services Act 2017. All parties have a stronger commitment to joint working than the voluntary Quality Bus Partnership arrangement previously in place.










Summary of human resources implications

19. BCP Council is fortunate that it has the appropriate expertise to work in partnership with the bus operators and deliver the BSIP improvements. Job descriptions developed through the Smarter Structures programme reflect this developing area of activity. It is likely that some support from external specialist consultants will be required.
20. The programme will need supporting by some Corporate Services as referred to in section 15 (see above).

Summary of sustainability impact

21. A Decision Impact Assessment DIA Proposal ID 436 has been created for this decision.

Impact Summary

Climate Change & Energy	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Communities & Culture	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Waste & Resource Use	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Economy	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Health & Wellbeing	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Learning & Skills	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Natural Environment	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Sustainable Procurement	Green - Only positive impacts identified	
Transport & Accessibility	Green - Only positive impacts identified	

Answers provided indicate that the score for the carbon footprint of the proposal is: **2**

Answers provided indicate that the carbon footprint of the proposal is:	Low	
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Summary of public health implications

22. Urban traffic speeds are falling by on average 2% every year, causing NO_x emissions to rise. Diesel cars are the single biggest contributor to NO_x levels, responsible for 41% of all NO_x emissions from road transport. Buses are amongst the cleanest vehicles on our roads with many now achieving Euro VI emissions

standards. Improving local bus services contributes to the BCP Council priority of developing an eco-friendly and active transport network with positive implications for public health.

Summary of equality implications

23. An updated Equalities Impact Assessment was considered by the EIA Panel on 11 August 2022. This received an overall rating of **Green – good to go/approved, providing sufficient evidence the public sector equality duty has been met.**

Summary of risk assessment

24. None identified.

Background papers

1. [Bus Back Better - A National Bus Strategy for England](#)
2. [Draft EP Plan and EP Scheme](#)

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

CABINET



Report subject	Finance Strategy Update Report
Meeting date	28 September 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report provides the first response to the recommendations of the Finance Update (including quarter one 2022/23 budget monitoring) report to Cabinet on 7 September 2022.</p> <p>Most significantly it includes an update on the Financial Strategy and proposals to prudently position the council to deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Acknowledges the progress made towards achieving a balanced budget for 2023/24 and the improved financial position for 2022/23 which is now expected to produce a surplus of £4.2m, excluding transformation costs. 2) Agree that Cabinet is presented with a full report on the impact of the cost of living to its meeting on the 26 October 2022. 3) In advance of (2) Cabinet supports the proposed approach to reassessing the fees and charges levied by the Council. <p>It is RECOMMENDED that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Pending the presentation of new viable business cases, remove from the Capital Programme the debt commitments to the Winter Gardens and Cotlands developments. 5) Release of earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix C.
Reason for recommendations	<p>Cabinet in considering a Finance Update (including quarter one 2022/23 budget monitoring) report, at their meeting on the 7 September 2022, agreed to place an update on the financial strategy as a standing item on the Cabinet agenda until such time as there is a balanced budget for 2023/24.</p> <p>In addition, as part of the same report, Cabinet agreed to bring forward to the 28 September Cabinet proposals to prudently position the council to deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24 from</p>

	<p>traditional local government financial management processes and revenue sources.</p> <p>This report presents the first update on progress towards delivering a balanced budget for 2023/24.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance & Transformation
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Author	Adam Richens, Chief Finance Officer and S.151 Officer adam.richens@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

- Through reports to Cabinet in June 2022 and September 2022 the council reflected on a material change to the risk profile contained within the 2022/23 budget because of:
 - Significant additional cost pressures caused by the cost-of-living crisis in both 2022/23 and future years of the Council's medium term financial plan (MTFP). These pressures are current estimated to be around £25m in 22/23 and £30m for 2023/24. Collectively a £55m impact over the two-year period since the 22/23 budget was set in February 2022. It should be emphasised that these pressures are wholly consistent with those being reported by other local authorities nationally.
 - Work by Cabinet, to develop and implement a cost-of-living mitigation strategy via a series of Budget Challenge meetings in April and May with senior officers.
 - High levels of current financial planning uncertainty caused by the cost-of-living crisis and constant changes and variations to the costs of goods, materials and services required to deliver council operations.
 - A change to the risk profile of the council's current and future years' budgets because of changes to the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (FUCR) statutory guidance which left the council with a significant shortfall in the funding of its approved transformation programme.
 - A letter from the DLUHC Secretary of State to all Council Leaders on the 1 August 2022 which set out that they will not hesitate to act where the spirit and intent of law is not fully observed and where they believe councils are engaging in practices that put local taxpayers at unacceptable risk.
 - A "minded" to offer of a £20m Capitalisation Direction for 2022/23 as set out in a letter from Paul Scully MP, the then Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) on the 2 September 2022 which

is reproduced as Appendix A to this report. This capitalisation direction could help the council mitigate the risk to the funding of the transformation programme caused by the change to the FUCR statutory guidance by Government.

2. In addition, the Council needs to continue to reflect on the accumulated and growing deficit on its Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) which on 31 March 2022 was greater than the total general fund un-earmarked reserves of the council. This deficit has been caused by the fact that expenditure in the high needs block which relates to pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is greater than the government funding being made available. As it stands unless the current "disregard regulations" that allow the council to ignore the DSG deficit are extended from their current 31 March 2023 deadline then the council will be in an untenable position on 31 March 2024. It is anticipated that the government will extend these regulations, but it must be emphasised that is by no means certain and cannot be guaranteed. The Government continue to work constructively with us on this issue including via the council's participation in the Delivering Better Value in SEND workstream.

In April 2022 nine authorities, on top of a previous five, were told as part of a "Safety Valve" mechanism to make structural reforms to the SEND services with a negotiated contribution from government towards their accumulated deficits. Dorset Council (DC) was one of them. BCP Council has not been invited to be part of the Safety Value mechanism because at the time our deficit compared to our dedicated schools grant was not one of the highest. The reality is this has been an issue nationally since the 2014 reforms and alongside probably numerous authorities nationally the council looks to resolve that matter as our deficit continues to accumulate.

3. Local Government Minister Paul Scully, in his letter of the 2 September 2022 to the Councillor Leader, established that his minded to offer of up to £20m in the form of a capitalisation direction for the financial year 2022/23 was subject to the following conditions.
 - The Council produces a full plan for addressing its budget gap in 2023/24 and beyond and share that with DLUHC by the end of September 2022. This plan should utilise all the resources available to the Council to close the budget gap, be fully within the spirit and intent of all local government guidance and aim to eliminate any exceptional financial support required going forward.
 - An external assurance review of the Council's finances and governance arrangements in the Autumn of 2022.

The letter went onto suggest that the Council should now be making the necessary plans and arrangements to secure its short- and medium-term future.

4. In considering this context Cabinet as part of the financial update (including quarter one 2022/23 budget monitoring) report to its meeting on the 7 September 2022 agreed the following salient recommendations, Cabinet.
 - Brings forward to the 28 September Cabinet meeting proposals to prudently position the council to deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24 from traditional local government financial management processes and revenue sources.
 - Requests the Corporate Directors and Portfolio Holders for Children's Services, Transformation, and Operations to bring forward papers outlining:
 - a) in-year service pressures and the mitigation strategy that will be put in place to manage them.

b) the timeline for the increase in costs for the transformation programme and provide an update on the delivery of 2022/23 budgeted and future years savings.

- Agrees to place an update on the Financial Strategy as a standing Cabinet agenda item until such time as there is a balanced budget delivered for 2023/24.
- Agrees that no new financial commitments will be made until such time as there is a balanced budget for 2023/24 other than with the specific agreement of the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance.

Updated Financial Strategy

- 5 Through meetings on the 7, 8, 15 and 22 September 2022 Cabinet meet with Senior Officers and developed the following revised financial strategy for 2023/24 which focuses on traditional local government financial management processes and revenue sources. In addition, several smaller working discussions have been held between senior managers and individual portfolio holders to discuss specific service-related budget options.

Financial Outturn 2022/23

6. Acknowledging that the current cost of living crisis creates huge uncertainty, which in turn has the potential to cause significant variability in our financial forecasting, Cabinet agreed to take all possible steps to improve the forecast outturn for 2022/23. This in turn should release resources to support the 2023/24 budget of the council and other budget pressures. Activity which should support this approach includes.
- The approved decision of Cabinet not to undertake any new financial commitments until such time as there is a balanced budget for 2023/24.
 - Robust review of the financial variances presented as part of the first quarter's budget monitoring report. As a reminder the Corporate Directors and Portfolio Holders for Children's Services, Transformation, and Operations are required to bring forward papers outlining their in-year service pressures and the mitigation strategy that will be put in place to manage them. It is suggested that these reports are included in the October Financial Strategy report to Cabinet.
 - A commitment through this report to bring forward a full separate report on the impact of the cost-of-living on the Council, and our communities to the 26 October Cabinet meeting. As part of this finance strategy, we are looking at:
income via fees and charges; potential new areas for income; benchmarking against other councils; a consistent understanding of full cost recovery; maximising returns to the council by way of market recovery; ensuring costs cover both current and anticipated inflation; and consider charging for discretionary services.

Transformation Programme

7. Fundamental review of proposed expenditure to ensure it is absolutely necessary with a focus on delivering the key essential elements of the programme. In undertaking this review the expectation will be that any costs associated with service enhancements will be avoided and all processes possible will be adopted to avoid or reduce redundancy costs.

Non-Strategic Assets disposals

8. Establish a schedule of non-strategic assets disposals which can be used, via the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (FUCR) statutory guidance, to fund, as a minimum, the £17.9m 2023/24 and £8.9m 2024/25 of Council approved revenue transformation expenditure (net of the current approved capital receipts). In addition, the ambition, will be to fund an additional £10m of investment in both 2023/24 and 2024/25 in the Children's and Adults' specific transformation programmes subject to the presentation of robust business cases which demonstrate both budget savings and adherence to the statutory guidance. Elements of the Children's and Adults' specific transformation programme may appear as separate agenda items on the October Cabinet. This gives a target receipt of a minimum of £26.8m and a maximum requirement of £46.8m.
9. These receipts should also include consideration of any properties which will potentially be released as part of Phase 2 of the Estates and Accommodation Strategy or via work being undertaken by BCP FuturePlaces Ltd on key strategic assets/sites.

Accommodation Strategy

10. Fundamental review of buildings occupied by BCP Council with a view to further consolidating the staff in the Civic Centre and considering future options for owned buildings or passing back leasehold properties as soon as practical. As an example, vacating Beech House on expiry of the lease in June 2025, or earlier through negotiation.

Commercial Opportunities

11. In line with the approved recommendation of Cabinet on 7 September 2022, explore options across the council to deliver revenue through further commercialisation. As an example, review options around Beach Huts and Community Events.

Staff Cost Basis

12. Consideration of several proposals designed to reduce the employee cost basis of the authority either temporary or permanently. These include:
 - Recognising that an element of the improvement in the 2021/22 financial outturn was lower than anticipated staffing costs caused by turnover, increase the percentage of the employee establishment not budgeted for 2023/24 from 2% to 4% as a minimum
 - A review of all vacancy posts to determine those which can be held or permanently removed.
 - Other than in support of statutory services and the delivery of the transformation programme, no new agency costs to be incurred.
 - No agency costs to be incurred, regardless of the service, in respect of business support posts from the end of December 2022.
 - Bring forward at pace a council wide apprenticeship programme.
13. Care will need to be taken with any proposals put forward as part of this updated financial strategy as any savings in staff or third party should, in the first instance, be considered as part of the programmed transformation savings.

An Enabling Council – Strength based approach.

14. Consider the extent to which the community would be better placed to manage council assets and the services delivered within them through volunteers and other sources of funding.

Invest to Save Proposals

15. Consider robust self-financing business cases that utilise the council's ability to borrow to invest in capital infrastructure which additionally will drive down operational costs or avoid demand pressures. Examples would be investment in street lighting to reduce the use of energy, investment in street parking meters, or renewable energy investment.

Harmonisation of services

16. The Council has ambitions to harmonise all services across the conurbation following on from Local Government Reorganisation. Good progress has been made in most areas, but some have been delayed due to the impact of Covid 19 or the need for further government guidance on policy changes. The proposal now is to review all outstanding areas of harmonisation with an intent to eliminate as many areas of difference as possible, within the budget parameters

Integrated Care System

17. Advance ongoing discussions with the representatives of the new Integrated Care System (who represent the delivery of National Health Services across Dorset) with a view to determining how the two organisations can more effectively work together with a view to driving down the overall costs of the system.

Review of Earmarked Reserves and Company/Third Party Balances

18. Annual review of earmarked reserves to ensure funds are not being tied up unnecessarily and were appropriate being released to support the proposed budgets of the council. The mitigation, in support of the 2022/23 cost of living crisis, already makes provision for the significant release of earmarked reserves in 2022/23 and 2023/24.
19. Associated with this is a review of the reserves and balances held by Council owned companies and joint arrangements with a view to determining if such resources can be released back to the council.

Capitalisation – Recharges

20. Further review of any costs currently charged to revenue which in line with the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice can be legitimately charged to capital. Similarly, consideration should be undertaken to ensure robust arrangements are in place regarding costs apportioned/charged against government grants and the housing revenue account.

Review of the Council's Collection Funds

21. A fundamental and detailed review of the collection funds, both Council Tax and Business Rates, as the position starts to stabilise in a post pandemic environment.

Influence and Lobbying

22. The focus of this workstream will be twofold.

- Requesting government support the council in managing the financial consequences of the cost-of living crisis.
- Requesting government to change appropriate legislation or allow local authorities to increase appropriate statutorily set fees (such as penalty charge notices for car park enforcement), or where the fee does not cover the cost of the service provided, and charges in reflection of previous and future forecast rates of inflation.

Service Rationalisation

23. Consideration of services that the local authority is not required to provide and consideration of any expenditure on services that it is required to provide which is above the statutory minimum.

Updated Medium Term Financial Plan

24. The 7 September Cabinet report set out the forecast MTFP position assuming the council meets the conditions for the 2022/23 £20m capitalisation direction further to the minded to offer from DLUHC.

Figure 1 Cabinet 7 September forecast MTFP position

	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Annual – Net Funding Gap	36.4	(7.1)	(2.2)	1.4	28.6
Cumulative MTFP – Net Funding Gap	36.4	29.4	27.2	28.6	

25. It was also acknowledged that this position would materially alter if any of the **key financial planning assumptions**, currently being adopted to underpin the financial planning framework, were to change. These key assumptions were listed as.
- Council Tax*
An increase of 2.99% annually has been assumed (1.99% basic plus 1% Adult Social Care Precept).
 - Council Tax – Tax base*
Tax base increases of 1.27% and then 1.05% in 2023/24 and 2024/25 to reflect the anticipated recovery post the global pandemic followed by increases of circa 0.5% per annum which is more in line with the norm.
 - Second Homes and Empty Homes*
In line with the July decision of Council the assumption of £5.3m extra income from 2024/25 due to the implementation of a 100% premium on second homes and commencing the empty homes premium after 1 not 2 years. This decision is clearly subject to confirmation via the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.
 - Pay Award*
£1,925 on every grade in 2022/23, 3% for 2023/24, and 2% annually thereafter.
 - Income*
Further recovery of car parking income from economic recovery after covid19 phased across 2023/23 and 2024/25 and increases in fees and charges.
 - Transformation Savings*
Assumed profile of £8.7m 2022/23, £18.7m 2023/24, £43.9m 2024/25, and £51.1m 2025/26

- g) *2.99% growth restriction in Adults and Children's Services Budgets*
Savings target across the four years of the MTFP from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027.

26. Following the work done by Cabinet the MTFP position can be updated as follows

Figure 2: Latest MTFP position 28 September 2022

	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Annual - Net Funding Gap	16.4	2.0	(3.0)	(1.1)	14.4
Cumulative MTFP - Net Funding Gap	16.4	18.5	15.5	14.4	

27. The key changes between the two reports can be listed as.

- a) Improvement in the forecast outturn for 2022/23 further to the Quarter One Budget Monitoring report presented to Cabinet as part of the Financial Update report to Cabinet on the 7 September. Analysis of these further variances, which amount to a £6.3m improvement, is presented as Appendix B to this report.
- b) Interim review of earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix C.
- c) Review of the assumptions underpinning the MTFP. For example, bringing forward the phased recovery of income based on the positive outturn for 2022/23 and latest forecast for 2022/23. Another example would be the inclusion of additional government funding in support of social care recognising the year-on-year provision of additional resources since 2015/16. An item for further work will be the adequacy of the 3% pay award for 2023/24.
- d) Increases in fees and charges to match inflation in both 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- e) Increase the percentage of the employee establishment not budgeted for 2023/24 to 4% in recognition of the 2021/22 financial outturn and 5% to challenge services into the future.
- f) Beach Hut commercialisation proposals.
- g) Pending the presentation of new viable business cases, the removal from the approved capital programme the debt commitments to Winter Gardens (£52.1m) and Cotlands (£10.6m) developments
- h) Revision to the principles around the £50m Futures Fund and £20m Green Futures Fund. Decisions will now be made as proposals are brought forward with nothing to be brought forward which is not self-financing until such time as the council has a balanced budget for 2023/24 and the budget headroom to afford schemes which are not self-financing.
- i) Additional Treasury Management income to reflect the higher rate of interest being achieved on the council's cash balances further to the increase in the base rate, to 2.25%, by the Bank of England on the 22 September 2022.
- j) The fiscal event on the 23 September 2022 which included confirmation of the proposal to reverse a previous 1.25% national insurance / health & social care levy increase.
- k) Other service efficiencies and changes.

28. The next stages of the workstream will particularly be focused on progressing the conversation around the integrated care system, determining the schedule of non-strategic assets to be put forward for disposal, the review of vacant posts and agency costs, and the review of fees and charges. This work is expected to be completed in time to report to the October Cabinet meeting and Cabinet now have confidence in our ability to close this gap in its entirety in time for the October report. DLUHC continue to be kept up to date with the Councils progress, the approach and the timeline in relation to presenting a balanced 23/24 position in the October report.

Options appraisal

29. This paper builds on the previous recognition of a material changes to the risk profile of the 2022/23 budget and MTFP. This includes significant costs pressures associated with the cost of living, changes to the FUCR statutory guidance, messages from the Secretary of State around ensuring authorities also adhere to the spirit and intent of legislation, and the government being minded-to offer the council a £20m capitalisation direction for 2022/23.

The “minded to” offer of a £20m Capitalisation Direction for 2022/23 could provide an opportunity for the council to avoid bringing forward further capital receipts or resources currently earmarked in support of the 2023/24 budget to fund the cost of its transformation programme. This offer is contingent upon the Council meeting the conditions of the offer letter and further conversations with DHLUC. The Council will keep alternatives to a capitalisation direction, such as additional capital receipts, under constant review alongside the need to consider whether this route best suits its financial strategy.

Conclusion

30. Cabinet has made good progress towards prudently positioning the council to deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24 with the forecast funding gap reduced from £36.4m to £16.4m. That said, the council remains in the position where it has not yet got a full plan for addressing its budget gap for 2023/24 and beyond. Cabinet remains committed to this work with the intent to report the end of September position to Cabinet as part of the now monthly Finance Update reports to its meeting on the 26 October 2022. In support of this workstream Cabinet are meeting with the Corporate Management Board weekly.

Summary of legal implications

31. The council has a fiduciary duty to its taxpayers to be prudent in the administration of the funds it holds on their behalf and an equal duty to consider the interests of their community which benefit from the services it provides.
32. It is the responsibility of councillors to ensure the council sets a balanced budget for the forthcoming year. In setting, such a budget councillors and officers of the council have a legal requirement to ensure it is balanced in a manner which reflects the needs of both current and future taxpayers in discharging these responsibilities. In essence, this is a direct reference to ensure that Council sets a financially sustainable budget which is mindful of the long-term consequences of any short-term decisions.
33. As a billing authority, failure to set a legal budget by 11 March each year may lead to intervention from the Secretary of State under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999. It should however be noted that the deadline is, in reality, the 1 March

each year to allow sufficient time for the council tax direct debit process to be adhered to.

Summary of human resources implications

- 34. There are no direct human resource implications of this report. However, the MTFP and budget will have a direct impact on the level of services delivered by the council, the mechanisms by which those services are delivered and the associated staffing establishment.
- 35. This report acknowledges that the transformation programme and the actions necessary to manage future years funding gaps are likely to have an impact on future staffing levels.

Summary of sustainability impact

- 36. There are no direct sustainability implications of this report

Summary of public health implications

- 37. There are no direct public health implications of this report.

Summary of equality implications

- 38. A full equalities impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the final February 2023 report to members as part of the annual budget process.

Summary of risk assessment

- 39. The risks inherent in the 2022/23 budget were clearly set out in the February 2022 Council budget report for 2022/23. This and the previous June and September finance reports to Cabinet recognised a change in the risk profile and recommends appropriate mitigation to maintain a balanced budget for 2022/23 and make a material impact on the potential funding gap for 2023/24.

Background papers

- 40. February 2022 Budget report to Council
Appendix 3 s25 Reserves Report CFO
<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=284&MId=4812&Ver=4>
- 41. June 2022 MTFP Update report to Cabinet
<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=5011&Ver=4>
- 42. Finance Update (including Quarter One 2022/13 Budget Monitoring) report to 7 September Cabinet
<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=5013&Ver=4>
- 43. Addendum to the 7 September Finance Update (including quarter one budget monitoring) report Cabinet
<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=5013&Ver=4>

Appendices

- A Letter from Paul Scully to Drew Mellor dated 2 September 2022
- B 2022/23 Additional Variance Analysis
- C Interim Review of Earmarked Reserves

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Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

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Paul Scully MP

*Minister of State at the Department for Levelling
Up, Housing and Communities Minister for
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**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
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4th Floor, Fry Building
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London SW1P 4DF

2 September 2022

Dear Cllr Mellor,

2022/23 EXCEPTIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT APPLICATION

I am writing in relation to Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council's application for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) on 15 July 2022. More broadly, and following my previous correspondence, I want to reiterate that I continue to have significant concerns about the present financial strategic direction of the Council and urge you to consider what action is needed to ensure the Council remains in a sustainable position.

In respect to your Council's request for EFS, after careful consideration, I am minded to offer the Council in-principle support of up to £20m in the form of a capitalisation direction for the financial year 2022/23. This letter does not constitute a capitalisation direction but outlines the Government's current position.

In line with the approach adopted for requests for Exceptional Financial Support, this in-principle support is subject to the Council agreeing to the following conditions:

- That the Council produces a full plan for addressing its budget gap in 2023/24 and beyond, and shares this with my department by the end of September 2022. This plan should seek to utilise all the resources available to the Council to close the budget gap, be fully within the spirit and intent of all local government guidance, and aim to eliminate any amount of exceptional financial support required going forwards;
- That the Council undergoes an external assurance review of its finances and governance arrangements. This review will advise on the amount of support required, help to ensure that the Council is on a sustainable footing going forwards, and ensure that policies and procedures are in place for robust decision making and accountability. This review will take place in Autumn 2022 and my officials will be in contact with your officers about this in due course.

Further conditions may apply to any capitalisation direction for 2022/23, including addressing recommendations made by the external assurance review and applying a 1% premium on any borrowing undertaken from the Public Works Loan Board associated with the

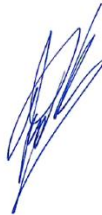
capitalisation direction. A final decision on any total amount of EFS support for 2022/23 will only be taken once an external assurance review has been completed.

The Council also applied for support in 2023/24 and 2024/25. As the Secretary of State made clear during his meeting with you on 11 August, Government will not consider requests for support in these years until after the Local Government Finance Settlement has allocated resources to all councils.

It is my view that the Council should now be making the necessary plans and arrangements to secure its short- and medium-term future. Going forward, it is essential that the Council is able to offer long term security and reassurance to local residents.

My officials and I look forward to continuing to work with you and your officers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Scully', with a stylized flourish at the end.

PAUL SCULLY MP



BCP COUNCIL

Budget Variances over £100k 2022/23

				£000 June Total Variance	£000 September update	£000 September Total Variance	
Directorate / Service	Type	Description					
Adult Social Care							
Adult Social Care - Services	Cost of living and other service pressures	Third Party Payments	Potential care costs increase following fair cost of care exercise	1,800		1,800	
		Third Party Payments	Care costs for people with long term conditions	1,729		1,729	
		Various	Other miscellaneous pressures (each less than £100k)	149		149	
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Third Party Payments	Adjustment to the residential and homecare budget from Covid grants	(257)		(257)	
		Third Party Payments	Care Cost for people with Learning Disabilities and Mental Health needs	(587)		(587)	
		Income	Estimated additional income from Health for Continuing Health Care eligible people and Section 117	(1,233)		(1,233)	
		Income	Service user contributions	(364)		(364)	
		Reserves	Utilisation of earmarked reserves specific to the service	(415)		(415)	
		Employee costs	Directorate unfilled vacancies	(365)		(365)	
		Review of earmarked reserves	ASC Support Grant		(113)	(113)	
		Review of earmarked reserves	Various others <£100k		(235)	(235)	
Adult Social Care - Services Total			457	(348)	109		
Commissioning Centre of Excellence & Public Health	Cost of living and other service pressures	Third Party Payments	Tricuro contract impact of cost of living including energy prices	171		171	
		Various	Other miscellaneous pressures (each less than £100k)	52		52	
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Third Party Payments	Tricuro efficiencies to manage energy cost pressure	(171)		(171)	
		Employee costs	Directorate unfilled vacancies	(52)		(52)	
Commissioning Centre of Excellence & Public Health Total			-	-	-		
Adult Social Care Total			457	(348)	109		
Children's Services							
Children's Services	Cost of living and other service pressures	Third Party Contributions	Health contributions for care placements	1,483		1,483	
		School Transport	Non-delivery of SEND transport savings assumed in the 2022/23 base budget	750		750	
		School Transport	SEND / mainstream transport contract costs due to the cost of living including fuel prices	1,250		1,250	
		School Transport	Mainstream transport - other reasons	(200)		(200)	
		Electricity/Gas costs	Assumed price variations	182		182	
		Staffing	Overall staffing - continued need for higher than expected levels of agency	1,960		1,960	
		Staffing	Continuation of additional purchased team (assumed to end in Sept 2022)	630		630	
		Care	Residential care 16-18 savings not deliverable as project not taken forward	211		211	
		Care	UASC - pressure of grant deficit for those aged over 18	708		708	
		Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Review of earmarked reserves	Public Health		(635)	(635)
	Children's Services Total			6,974	(635)	6,339	
	Children's Services Total			6,974	(635)	6,339	
Operations							
Housing	Cost of living and other service pressures	Electricity/Gas costs	Assumed price variations	155		155	
		Income pressure	Telecare reduction to budgeted income assumed 22/23	250		250	
		Expenditure pressure	Council New Build Housing Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS) saving assumed in the 2022/23 base budget	219		219	
		Expenditure pressure	Housing related support contracts inflationary clause	150		150	
		Service pressures	Housing Options & Partnerships	-	253	253	
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Additional one-off dividend from Bournemouth Building Maintenance Ltd	(200)		(200)	
		Service saving	Harmonisation of recharges to the two HRA neighbourhood accounts	(100)		(100)	
		Service saving	Homelessness Prevention Grant utilised to cover budget costs	(100)		(100)	
		Service saving	Risk & Improvement	-	(154)	(154)	
		Service saving	Other miscellaneous savings (each less than £100k)	(347)	(168)	(515)	
Housing Total			27	(69)	(42)		
Environment	Cost of living and other service pressures	Income pressure	Crematorium income pressure	600		600	
		Expenditure pressure	Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) costs	400		400	
		Expenditure pressure	Volume of waste bins that need replacement	200		200	
		Expenditure pressure	Waste Disposal Contract	150		150	
		Service pressures	Parks & Bereavement Services	-		-	
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Sales of recycle material – value and volume	(1,000)	(2,149)	(3,149)	
		Service saving	Capitalisation of neighbourhood highways costs less associated borrowing costs	(930)		(930)	
		Service saving	Defer move to HVO fuel across corporate fleet assets (cost avoidance)	(400)		(400)	
		Service saving	Sales of waste material from the Household Waste Recycling Centres	(100)		(100)	
		Service saving	Green Waste Income	(278)		(278)	
		Service saving	Bereavement Services pricing increase options		(167)	(167)	
		Service saving	Other miscellaneous savings (each less than £100k)		(26)	(26)	
Environment Total			(1,358)	(2,342)	(3,700)		

Directorate / Service	Type	Description	£000 June Total Variance	£000 September update	£000 September Total Variance
Destination & Culture	Cost of living and other service pressures	Expenditure pressure	BH Live	436	436
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Cultural Compact	(129)	(129)
		Service saving	Festival Coast Live	(125)	(125)
		Service saving	Cultural development and networking	(100)	(100)
		Service saving	Income from BH Live	(200)	(200)
		Reveiw of earmarked reserves	SLM reserve	(560)	(560)
Destination & Culture Total			82	(760)	(678)
Coroners	Cost of living and other service pressures	Expenditure pressure	Increased / complex caseload	100	100
Coroners Total			100	-	100
Transport & Engineering	Cost of living and other service pressures	Expenditure pressure	Car Parks, rates increases, card charges and other expenditure items	852	852
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Car park income increase to reflect previous year's performance	(691)	(691)
		Service saving	Beach car park tariffs increased	(359)	(359)
		Service saving	Street lighting (excluding utility pressure)	(132)	(132)
		Service saving	Recharging to capital schemes	(340)	(340)
		Service saving	FCERM one off surplus savings from reserve that was to be used for Hamworthy sea wall defences	(260)	(260)
		Service saving	Remove seasonal concession for car parking	(150)	(150)
		Service saving	Capitalisation of asset engineering	(125)	(125)
		Service saving	Various other each <£100k	(119)	(119)
Transport & Engineering Total			(670)	(654)	(1,324)
Communities	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Utilisation of the Community Prosecutions Earmarked Reserve	(105)	(105)
		Service saving	Stopping allocation to development of VRN	(150)	(150)
		Service saving	Various other each <£100k	(110)	(110)
Communities Total			(105)	(260)	(365)
Operations Directorate General	Cost of living and other service pressures	Electricity/Gas costs	Assumed price variations	3,106	3,106
		Expenditure pressure	Other miscellaneous pressures (each less than £100k)	545	545
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Other miscellaneous savings (each less than £100k)	(622)	(622)
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Cleaner, Greener, Safer - Total	(388)	(388)
Operations Directorate General Total			2,641	-	2,641
Operations Total			717	(4,085)	(3,368)
Resources & Transformation					
Customer & Service Delivery	Cost of living and other service pressures	Electricity/Gas costs	Facilities Management - Assumed price variations	485	485
		Service pressures	Library PFI Contract inflationary clause	150	150
		Service pressures	Other < £100k	83	83
Customer & Service Delivery Total			718	-	718
Resources & Transformation General	Cost of living and other service pressures	Employee costs	Major projects team salaries pressure	135	135
		Third Party Payments	Software contracts inflationary clause - resources	157	157
		Transformation	Shortfall against transformation target	1,595	1,595
		Service savings	Various other each <£100k	52	52
Resources & Transformation General Total			1,939	-	1,939
Resources & Transformation Total			2,657	-	2,657
Central Items					
Central Items	Cost of living and other service pressures	Various	Other miscellaneous pressures (each less than £100k)	(34)	(34)
		Employee costs	Assumption that the pay award will be above budget at 4% (May) / £1,925 per FTE (June)	4,139	4,139
		Employee costs	Assumed 20% element of transformation related redundancy costs which cannot be funded from the FUCR in line with the regulations which apply from 1 April 2022 onwards	250	250
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Income	Additional Treasury Management Income due to higher interest rates and the additional money made available to the council in advance of spend.	-	-
		Earmarked Reserve	Release Transformation Mitigation Earmarked Reserve not utilised as planned in 2021/22	(1,320)	(1,420)
		Earmarked Reserve	Release part of the additional 2021/22 surplus to support the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on the council - at June not needed	(1,949)	(1,949)
		Grant Income	Contain Outbreak Management Fund resources that the Council is able to carry forward into 2022/23 to fund previously planned expenditure	-	-
		Grant Income	Anticipation that the final reconciliation of the Covid 19 Sales, Fees and Charges grant claim will be approved by government	(1,437)	(1,437)
		Financial Services	Stour Valley and Poole Partnership Revenue and Benefits (SVPP) – release of the 2021/22 operational reserve	(1,402)	(1,402)
		Contingency	Contingency released to support in-year position	(435)	(435)
		Beach Huts	Beach hut income as not being transferred to a special purpose vehicle	(2,256)	(2,186)
		Corporate Provisions	Bournemouth Development Company (BDC) released portion of provision	(3,700)	(3,700)
		Minimum Revenue Provision	Winter Gardens finance loan	(1,000)	(1,000)
		Transformation	Remove 2022/23 share of redundancy costs that cannot be charged to transformation	(304)	(304)
		Employee costs	Removal of 1.25% National Insurance Levy from November 2022	(250)	(250)
				(583)	(583)
Central Items Total			(9,144)	(1,167)	(10,311)
Central Items Total			(9,144)	(1,167)	(10,311)
Grand Total			1,661	(6,235)	(4,574)

Financial Strategy 2023/24

Review of Earmarked Reserves (September 2022)

Cabinet is recommended to release the following amounts in support of the 2023/24 proposed budget of the Council.

- (£1.5m) Asset Investment Strategy, Rent, Renewals and Repairs Reserve**
Resources set aside as part of the process of managing annual fluctuations in the rent, landlord repairs and costs associated with the council's commercial property acquisitions as set out in the Non-Treasury Asset Investment Strategy. Reduction reflects the intent in the financial strategy to dispose of a number of non-strategic asset investments. The proposal is a 50% reduction on the £2.99m held in the reserve as of 31 March 2022.
- (£0.6m) SLM Contract – Covid 19 Recovery Earmarked**
Release resources previously set aside to mitigate the recovery of the SLM contracts from the implications of the pandemic. Any variations will be addressed as part of the budget for each relevant year.
- (£0.2m) Adult Social Care – Various reserves which can be reduced or removed**
£113k Covid pressures, £50k Adult Social Care support grant, £31k Campus Funding, £20k Better Care Fund.
- (£0.1m) Sinking Funds – Figbury Lodge £82k and Fairways £52k**
Release all the resources previously set aside as part of the original business cases to provide for a major refurbishment, after 25 years of the 50 years business case, plus any interim infrastructure maintenance not passed to the care provider via the contract. The budget for 2023/24 will retain ongoing provisions.

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CABINET



Report subject	BCP Community Safety Partnership Strategy
Meeting date	28 September 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Pursuant to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the BCP Community Safety Partnership, known as Safer BCP (“the Partnership”) is required to produce and implement a Community Safety Strategy for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, for combatting drug misuse, alcohol and other substances, and for reducing re-offending. As a statutory partner of the CSP, the Council is required to adopt the strategy.</p> <p>This report summarises the Partnership’s Community Safety Strategy 2022 – 2025, including priorities, strategic principles, approach, objectives, and key performance indicators.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Cabinet recommend this strategy for approval by Council. ii) Cabinet authorises the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services to oversee and approve any recommended additional and minor amendments to the Strategy, in conjunction with Safer BCP.
Reason for recommendations	To endorse the Partnership’s Community Safety Strategy 2022 – 2025 and adopt it as BCP Community Safety Strategy.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Bobbie Dove – Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons, Chief Operating Officer
Report Authors	<p>Kelly Ansell - Director of Communities</p> <p>Alva Bailey – Community Safety Strategic Development Lead</p>
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For update and information

Background

1. The Community Safety Partnership Strategy sets out how the Council and partners will work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and advance measures to make Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole even safer for people to live, work, and visit.
2. Each year the Partnership conducts a strategic assessment of crime and disorder in the conurbation, as required by legislation. The assessment takes account of crime and disorder volumes and trends, offending and re-offending data, emerging issues of local and national concern, and the priorities of key partner agencies, including those of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset.
3. This is the first Community Safety Strategy developed by the Partnership since it formed in 2019. However, despite restrictions brought about by COVID-19 soon after the Partnership was formed, annual strategic assessments have been consistently completed and annual Community Safety responses and programmes delivered. It should also be noted that the Council has a duty to scrutinise the performance of the partnership, which has been completed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board annually since its inception.
4. The partnership has taken the approach of developing a strategy that centres around three main priority areas that threaten residents' quality of life, youth aspirations, and negatively impact the reputation of BCP as a place where people are safe from violent crime.
5. This strategy is for a three-year period, but annual plans will continue to be developed to reflect the often rapidly changing patterns of crime, threat and risk. The annual Plans will be derived from the ongoing annual strategic assessments and the priorities of Council and Police as lead partners.
6. Previous priorities drawn from strategic assessments have focussed on specific crime types, such as domestic abuse, sexual violence, public-place and alcohol-related violence, threats to children and young adults (knife crime, County Lines, sexual exploitation), and anti-social behaviour. This reflected an emphasis on "high-harm" crimes, except for anti-social behaviour and relied on a mainly reactive approach. In considering how to develop this Strategy, the Partnership recognised the need for a whole-system approach that considered risk and protective factors, focussed on prevention, intervention as well as enforcement, and was led by data and insight.
7. The partnership agreed to adopt the Public Health Approach across its work going forward, which seeks to take account of the wider drivers and systems that affect the whole community, as well as specific groups, and then takes a wider multi-agency response for short, medium, and long-term impacts.
8. This approach requires close collaboration with sharing information, joint planning, complementary service delivery, and joint commissioning where possible. The Partnership has committed in the strategy to learn more from areas that are already further ahead in working to a public health approach in informing its work.

Strategic Assessment

9. The Annual Strategic Assessment (2020 to 2021), which is attached at Appendix 1 includes available 2020/21 data up to September 2021. It identifies the prevalence, levels and types of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, and

substance misuse across BCP as well as any trends or areas of repeat demand. The strategic assessment was approved by the CSP Executive Board in January 2022 and the content has informed the development of the strategy which is attached as Appendix 2.

Strategic Priorities and Objectives

10. The process of deciding the priorities and principles involved recommendations presented to the CSP Executive in January 2022, followed by a half-day seminar discussion with members of the executive board, where the recommendations were refined. As the strategy developed, draft versions were circulated to board members for consultation and refinement.
11. At the CSP Executive Board meeting on 26 April 2022, the final draft of the strategy was accepted and approved, subject to minor changes to be approved by the Board Chair and Vice Chair. As stated in the executive summary above, the Partnership is required to produce and review a strategy and the Council is required to adopt it. It should also be noted that the Council has a duty to scrutinise the performance of the partnership, which has been completed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board annually since its inception.
12. The strategic priorities agreed by the CSP Executive Board are:
 - I. Tackle violent crime in all its forms**
 - II. Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks**
 - III. Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse**
13. The strategy outlines a set of strategic objectives for each priority, as well as key indicators to measure performance against the objectives. One key objective is to improve information sharing, as this underpins all aspects of effective multi-agency working. Annual action plans will include additional measures so activities can be measured for their effectiveness.
14. In all respects, the strategic priorities are supported by the evidence provided in the strategic assessment. Undoubtedly, there will be other community safety issues not covered in the priorities, such as burglary, that may be affecting certain sections of the community more than others. The Police will continue to respond accordingly as these issues are within their remit, as will other agencies respond to drivers of crime and vulnerability within their remit.
15. The Community Safety Partnership will provide progress update reports to the Council's Place Overview and Scrutiny Panel pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000 and sections 19 and 20 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The CSP annual Action Plans will formulate the basis of that report.

Key Performance Indicators

16. In order to track the progress of the Partnership's delivery against its priorities, the following Key Performance Indicators have been agreed and will form the basis of annual reporting, including to the Corporate O&S Panel;

Priority	KPI;s
Tackle violent crime in all its forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reduction in recorded violent crimes, especially Serious Youth Violence, Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, and weapons-related assaults b) Increase in the number of violence-prevention awareness sessions delivered to young people so they understand what constitutes violence, and are empowered to report violence c) Increase in the number of violent offenders (MSV) brought to justice
Keep young people and adults-at risk safe from exploitation, including online risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increase in the number of criminal and civil powers used to deter offenders, incl. Child Abduction Warning Notices, Community Protection Notices, Recovery Orders, Slavery & trafficking prevention orders, and referrals to the National Referral Mechanism b) Increase in the number of practitioners trained to recognise the signs of exploitation and how to refer for support c) Increase in the use of the Child Exploitation Screening Tool across all levels on intervention with children and young people at risk of exploitation d. Increase in children reporting that they feel safer, and parents / carers reporting greater confidence about available support and access to it
Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increase in the number of joint patrols by uniformed officers, such as neighbourhood policing teams and council enforcement officers b) Increase in the number of intervention tools used, such as mediation, restorative justice methods, and tenancy warnings c) Increase in the reporting of personal ASB d) Increase in the number of criminal and civil powers used to reduce ASB, incl. Civil injunctions, criminal behaviour orders, community protection notices, and closure powers e) Increase capacity for substance misuse treatment and reduce drug and alcohol-related deaths

Summary of financial implications

17. The revised structure of the CSP requires additional coordination and information analysis to ensure that the Partnership is proactive, effective, and reflective. The Communities Directorate has recently completed a review of the community safety team structure and has rationalised posts to ensure the Council is able to adequately respond to these requirements. This comes at no additional financial cost.
18. Partners outside of the Council are being encouraged to support joint funding towards specific areas of the Partnership's business, such as domestic homicide reviews and information governance.
19. When new community safety initiatives are being commissioned by any of the partners, efforts will be made to commission jointly to spread costs and increase operational coverage. This will take time to embed but the Partnership will encourage this way of working going forward.

Summary of legal implications

20. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) 2011, established partnerships between police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, probation service, and clinical commissioning group. The purpose of these partnerships is to ensure that all these agencies work together to tackle local crime and disorder. The 1998 Act placed a central duty on these 'responsible authorities' to produce audits of the area's local crime problems and implement strategies to tackle them.
21. Under s.6 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, the Council (with other partner authorities) has a duty to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area and a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area. In formulating the strategy, the partner authorities must have regard to the police and crime plan for the area.
22. Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) gave a power to any person or body to share information with partners for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder. This was strengthened by paragraph 5 of Schedule 9 to the Police and Justice Act that introduces a new section 17A of the 1998 Act which is a duty to share certain sets of depersonalised information.

Summary of human resources implications

23. The revised structure of the CSP requires additional coordination and administration. This is largely met by council and police staff. Measures are being pursued to involve staff from other partners, especially in providing data and analytical support.

Summary of sustainability impact

24. The Partnership is developing a strength-based approach which will include residents in developing local solutions to local problems. This, coupled with the Public Health Approach, will improve sustainability through early intervention and building on the strengths in communities.

Summary of public health implications

25. Public health and wellbeing are important by-products of a safer community. The work of the Partnership is to improve public health and community wellbeing by

preventing crime and disorder, effectively tackling them when they occur, improving safety in the community, and reducing victimisation.

Summary of equality implications

26. The Community Safety Strategy considers an analysis of crime reports in the previous period which highlights the areas that need the most attention. However, the Community Safety Strategy for 2022 - 2025 prioritises lower-probability but higher-impact issues including prevention of radicalisation, widespread child sexual and criminal exploitation, youth violence, and domestic violence. If a potentially community-changing event took place (such as terrorism) it might have an indiscriminate impact that cannot be accurately assessed.
27. For some types of issues covered by the Strategy, there are clear categories of victims who are likely to be affected, including adults-at-risk and young (under 25) and vulnerable people being criminally or sexually exploited.
28. In terms of volume crime, young men are at most risk of robbery and the age of victims seems to be decreasing. At the same time, the age of suspects is also predominantly young. Older people are at comparatively low risk of being the victims of crime.
29. Domestic violence continues to be a higher-proportion crime and the victims are predominantly women, although the chronic under reporting from men is acknowledged and something the CSP is seeking to address through its Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy. As well as the continuing efforts to support victims, the Partnership is working to support behaviour change among perpetrators, including educating young people.
30. The Equality Impact Assessment has not noted any disproportionate adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics arising from the Strategy.

Summary of risk assessment

31. Data management resources pose the greatest risk to the effective functioning of the Partnership. However, measures are underway to strengthen this area.

Background papers

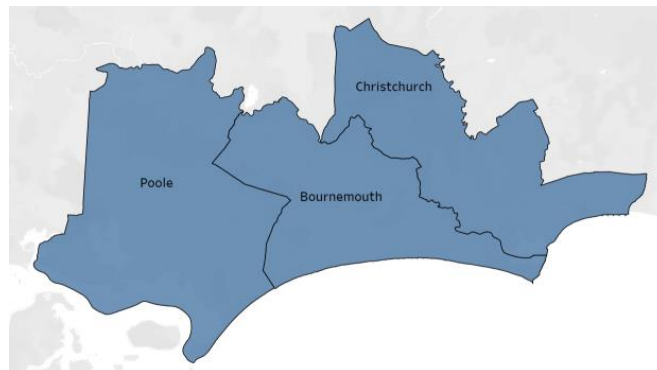
None

Appendices

- 1 Safer BCP Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2020 – 2021
- 2 Safer BCP Community Safety Strategy 2022 – 2025
- 3 Equality Impact Assessment



Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole



STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2020/21

April 2022 – Final for publication



**DORSET
POLICE**



OFFICIAL

Date:	19 March 2022
Version:	V2.0 FINAL
Protective Marking:	<p>This document carries a protective marking of OFFICIAL.</p> <p>The document should not be used for any other purpose outside of this core remit, or passed to external agencies or other third parties, without the prior agreement of either the Chair of the BCP CSP or the Community Safety Partnership Manager.</p>
Produced by:	<p>BCP Community Safety Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">☞ Richard Furneaux, BCP Council☞ Hannah Keir, BCP Council☞ Sam Graves, BCP Council

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Overview of Crime and Disorder

- 1.1.1 There was a 13% reduction in police recorded crime in BCP from 2019/20 which is consistent with the 13% reduction nationally (excluding fraud and computer misuse offences). However, crime levels across the country have been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. The largest reductions in crimes were between April and June 2020, corresponding with the introduction of the first national restrictions beginning at the end of March 2020. The impact of the pandemic continues to impact on people's freedom, such as their ability to travel internationally, and their behaviour and it is not possible to predict when these restrictions will no longer be in place.
- 1.1.2 While there have been reductions in most types of crime, this overall reduction obscures the trends of individual crime types, in smaller geographical areas, at different times and where there are different risks. Different members of our community do not share an "equality of risk" to the threats underlying the recommended priorities and we may fail to recognise this if we pool those at highest risk with a general population comprising a significant majority of individuals who are lower risk by virtue of age, gender, race, income, vulnerability, etc, and when and where they work, reside, study, or travel.
- 1.1.3 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on society; there have been unprecedented changes to health care systems, economic performance, mental wellbeing, social interactions and mobility in response to both the virus and attempts to control it. The restrictions imposed significantly limited physical interactions, particularly during, but not restricted to lockdown periods accelerating the adoption of working from home practices and shifting to online platforms for day-to-day needs. These changes created fewer opportunities for criminals in public areas and more opportunities online. The Telephone Crime Survey for England and Wales found that the reductions in crime were offset by increases in fraud and computer misuse offences, with no overall change in the level of crime reported to the survey. This displacement reflects the changing opportunities for criminal behaviour during the pandemic.
- 1.1.4 Many services have also been delivering interventions by phone and video conferencing technology, and more research is needed to understand the impacts of this change and whether it has increased the vulnerability of some BCP residents.
- 1.1.5 There are approximately 15 million visitors each year to the BCP area, spending £800 million locally. Popular press and tourism related journalists ascribe a visible "boom" in visitor numbers to UK seaside resorts due to the increased complexity and restrictions involved in international travel. It is likely that this trend will continue into 2021/22 and beyond, maintaining employment in the sector, but putting more demand on local services including street cleansing, parks and greenspace maintenance, medical services, and community safety.
- 1.1.6 The introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and proposed Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill gives greater focus on violence, both within and outside the home, and on our collective ability to effectively safeguard and protect those within our communities who are vulnerable to these forms of harm.

1.2 Additional Needs and Risk Factors

- 1.2.1 There is an increasing body of research linking factors such as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), poor mental health, special educational needs, substance misuse and deprivation to an increased likelihood of a person becoming a victim or perpetrating crime or disorder.
- 1.2.2 BCP has areas which are among the most and the least deprived in the country. BCP has nine areas in the most deprived 10% in England, where 16,000 residents live. The greatest levels of deprivation are in Boscombe West, Kinson, East Cliff & Springbourne, Alderney & Bourne Valley, and Muscliff & Strouden Park.
- 1.2.3 Many measures for young people compare favourably with the national average, but BCP has higher rates of fixed and permanent exclusions, children in need and first-time entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System. These measures draw attention to the need for early intervention for young people risk of poor outcomes including offending or becoming persistent/repeat offenders.
- 1.2.4 While drug related deaths have remained stable over the past three years, the rate of hospital admissions for 15–24-year-olds has been increasing since 2014/15 and is significantly higher than the England average. This suggests that drug-related harm could be a growing issue for young people.
- 1.2.5 BCP had a higher rate than the England average for a number of alcohol related hospital measures in 2019/20 (which is the most recent data), including: alcohol related hospital admissions, admission episodes for mental and behavioural disorders due to the use of alcohol, admission episodes for alcohol-related cardiovascular disease for males, and admission episodes for alcoholic liver disease. Many of these measures are associated with long term alcohol abuse, and this indicates that BCP may have a high proportion of dependent or risky drinkers.
- 1.2.6 BCP has a higher than England average rate for measures associated with poor mental health, for both adults and young people. This includes emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (for both adults and 10–24-year-olds); inpatient stays in secondary mental health services; school pupils with social, emotional or mental health needs; hospital admissions for mental health conditions (under 18s); and suicides.
- 1.2.7 Research trying to assess the impact of the pandemic has found that people have experienced it in different ways, and that the experience has been dynamic, creating a complex mix of risk and protective factors where some people have received increased support from their community while others have faced financial hardship and/or isolation, which has exacerbated existing risk factors.
- 1.2.8 There are a number of gaps in our shared knowledge, particularly around the profile of youth offending and adult offender management, which are likely to be linked to needs associated with their offending behaviours. There are also gaps in shared knowledge around high harm offences, particularly child criminal exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking, and county lines. Having a better understanding will inform the partnership approach and allow opportunities for early intervention moving forward.

1.3 Reviewing Previous Priorities (2020/21)

- 1.3.1 The previous strategic assessment recommended four priorities to be the focus of partnership action across Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole. This section draws upon the evidence from the full document to consider whether they should be continuing priorities.

1.3.2 **Serious Violence:** Domestic Abuse; Sexual Violence; Public Place and Alcohol-Related Violence (with a focus on the night-time economy within Bournemouth's Town Centre).

1.3.2.1 Overall, since 2019/20, violence was showing a reduction across the BCP area, driven by a reduction in alcohol-related violence which is almost certainly a result of restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, as restrictions on the night-time economy change and lessen it is likely that levels of alcohol-related violence will increase.

1.3.2.2 Recorded sexual offences significantly reduced in 2020/21, this is likely a temporary trend linked to the restrictions in the night-time economy. However, data for 2021/22 strongly indicates increases beyond the levels recorded in 2019. Victims of sexual offences are disproportionately young females under 17 years.

1.3.2.3 Reported domestic violence increased by 5% in Poole and Christchurch. Therefore, it is recommended that these areas should continue to be considered a priority for the partnership.

1.3.2.4 While there is generally a low level of knife crime in Dorset, there are higher levels in Bournemouth and there are links to areas with higher levels of deprivation. The average age of suspects has fallen from around 30 years to around 20 years and increasingly possession of a knife offences is also drug related. Therefore, it is recommended that knife crime be included in this priority.

1.3.3 **Threats to children and young people:** Knife Crime; County Lines; Sexual Exploitation

1.3.3.1 There has been a reduction in possession of a weapon offences, but there are gaps in our knowledge around the profile of young offenders, county lines and criminal exploitation. Links have also been found between knife crime and drugs both nationally and in local data. There is some evidence to suggest that young people are disproportionately the victims of robbery, and that there could be a concerning increase in young people perpetrating this crime, but more research is required before firm conclusions can be drawn.

1.3.3.2 These types of crime cause considerable harm to young people along with sexual exploitation, and for this reason it should continue to be a priority for the partnership to better understand these threats.

1.3.4 **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

1.3.4.1 Although early 2021/22 data is indicating a reduction, there were high levels of reported ASB during 2020 and 2021 compared with 2019, due to two consecutive factors resulting from the pandemic:

- a) During periods of control measures and restrictions, significant numbers of ASB incidents directly linked to breaches of restrictions were logged;
- b) The easing of restrictions, whilst travel overseas restrictions remain, resulted in larger number of people visiting the area.

1.3.4.2 Data analysis undertaken to filter out ASB incidents in 2021 directly associated with Covid shows the underlying levels of ASB similar to 2019. There are gaps in knowledge about how this compares to previous years, but the influx of tourists looking to take holidays in the area due to the complexity of going abroad is likely to continue into 2022.

- 1.3.4.3 People 'using or dealing drugs' was thought to be a very or fairly big problem by respondents to the Resident's Survey, along with rubbish and litter. This could indicate that drug issues are increasing in the area and warrants further investigation.

1.3.5 Hate Crime

- 1.3.5.1 Hate crime has continued to increase by a further 10% from 2020, however, because we know this type of crime is under-reported, it is difficult to know whether this increase is due to better recording and people having more confidence to report, or whether there has been a genuine increase in this type of crime.

1.4 2022/23 Recommended Priorities

- 1.4.1 Considering the data and analysis contained in this document, and gaps in knowledge that have been highlighted, the following are recommended as priorities for the partnership:

Priority 1 Tackle violent crime in all its forms

Priority 2 Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks

Priority 3 Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including drug dealing

- 1.4.2 It is recommended that the following Principles are also adopted by the SaferBCP partnership.

- Enhancing knowledge and understanding of crime and anti-social behaviour through better sharing of information, so we may address the human, social and environmental factors that drive them, the interventions likely to have positive impact, and the ways we may work with communities to prevent and combat them.
- Collaborating across agency boundaries to plan, commission and deliver jointly, and to improve our efficiencies for the benefits of BCP communities, with a clear focus on crime prevention, reduction of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system, and reduction of repeat and persistent offending.
- Ensuring victims and communities are central to the development, commissioning, and delivery of service, including in early education settings, and where there are complex and additional needs such as familial and personal substance misuse, poor mental health, learning needs and protected characteristics.
- Committed to developing a partnership that embraces equality and inclusivity.
- Operating a robust performance management framework to measure what works and how to be more effective.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 The Safer Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Partnership consists of a core membership of BCP Council, Dorset Police, Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Authority, and the National Probation Service.
- 2.2 The Safer BCP Partnership was formed when the area of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole transitioned from the former unitary authorities of Bournemouth and Poole and the non-metropolitan district of Christchurch to a single unitary authority, BCP Council, on 1 April 2019.
- 2.3 Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory obligation to produce a strategic assessment annually. This document aims to assess crime, disorder, and community safety issues, highlight areas of increasing and reducing threat, and evaluate the partnership's current response to inform future priorities and work. It is recognised that this is a work in progress and work is ongoing to obtain datasets that will enhance our knowledge, particularly around reoffending, exploitation and factors that may increase the likelihood of a person becoming a victim or perpetrator of crime.
- 2.4 Each of the core Community Safety Partnership agencies has a wider remit outside of their commitment to Community Safety and have published strategies or plans which set out their individual agencies corporate priorities which are listed below.
- 2.5 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council Corporate Strategy objectives are:



- Sustainable Environment
 - ensure sustainability underpins all of our policies
 - protect and enhance our outstanding natural environment
 - develop an eco-friendly and active transport network
 - tackle the climate and ecological emergency
 - promote sustainable resource management
 - Maximise access to our high-quality parks and open spaces
- Dynamic Places
 - revitalise and reinvent our high streets and local centres
 - invest in the homes our communities need
 - create a sustainable, vibrant and inclusive economy
 - increase productivity through skills investment
 - develop sustainable infrastructure
 - support our businesses to operate more creatively
 - create a 21st century digital infrastructure
- Connected Communities
 - strengthen the cultural identity of our towns and places
 - respect and engage with our diverse communities
 - encourage intergenerational interactions
 - reduce loneliness and isolation
 - ensure our communities feel safe
 - empower a thriving voluntary and community sector
- Brighter Futures
 - enable access to high quality education
 - be aspirational for our children in care
 - support parents and guardians to care for their children well
 - prevent harm through early intervention

- Fulfilled Lives
 - support people to live safe and independent lives
 - promote happy, active and healthy lifestyles
 - develop age-friendly communities
 - value and support carers
 - enable people to live well through quality social care
 - tackle homelessness and prevent rough sleeping
 - promote lifelong learning for all

2.6 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, which sets the strategic intent for policing in Dorset, sets out six priorities in their [2021-28 Police and Crime Plan](#):



- Cut crime & anti-social behaviour
The police will provide a robust focus to cut crime and the constant grind of anti-social behaviour, so people across Dorset see a clear difference and feel safer. to better engage with young people to secure a brighter future.
- Make Policing more visible & connected
To increase the number and visibility of police officers in our neighbourhood teams, so police can fulfil a prevention role and people and businesses across Dorset experience less crime. Contact and connectivity with the public to be improved.
- Fight violent crime & high harm
To tackle organised crime, be tough on drugs and violent crime, and to tackle hidden harm issues that affect Dorset's communities, such as child abuse, domestic abuse, stalking and modern slavery.
- Put victims & communities first
Support all victims, particularly those most at risk of harm – and build community strength by working with local agencies. Supporting volunteers, such as neighbourhood Watch, and increasing opportunities for young people.
- Fight rural crime
To significantly increase the rural crime team and their capabilities and to have specific strategies to address those crimes and issues that most affect rural communities, and to tackle wildlife crime.
- Make every penny count
Resourcing and transforming the frontline and improving efficiency so that the police can spend more time out in their communities. ensuring robust oversight of financial, audit and governance arrangements.

2.7 The Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority [Community Safety Plan 2021-24](#) sets out their Priorities as:



- **Help you to make safer and healthier choices**– we want you to be more aware about the risks you face and support you and your business to be safer. We are committed to improving the wellbeing of you and your family.
- **Protect you and the environment from harm**– we will work with you to improve your safety and reduce the effect that day-to-day hazards and risks can have on you and your environment.
- **Be there when you need us**– we will continue to provide a professional and prompt response when an emergency happens.

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- **Make every penny count**– we will continue to be a well-respected and trusted Service, offering excellent value for money.
- **Supporting and developing our people**– making sure our staff are at the centre of everything we do, are well led, and have the right knowledge and skills, is crucial to the success of our Service.

2.8 On 26 June 2021, the [Probation Services](#) unified, bringing 7,000 probation professionals into their new model, either directly in the Probation Services or employed by one of the organisations appointed to deliver Commissioned Rehabilitative Services to offenders.



- Our priority is to protect the public by the effective rehabilitation of offenders, by reducing the causes which contribute to offending and enabling offenders to turn their lives around.

2.9 Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group's key mission is:



- to support people in Dorset to lead healthier lives, for longer.

This mission sets out their ultimate purpose and defines what they aim to achieve every day, through every decision and every interaction.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 This Strategic Assessment has been produced with a broader range of inputs than was possible in previous years. However, despite the positive movements in both methodology and range of contributions, there are still gaps in our knowledge. These gaps are reported as a register at Appendix B.
- 3.2 Despite these gaps the authors are confident they have been able to identify key strategic priorities for the partnership. In addition to these, a range of more specific concerns and recommendations have been identified for implementation or further research.
- 3.3 Where possible the data for 2020/21 will be compared with 2019/20 or previous years. However, the BCP conurbation is relatively new as an entity, and therefore long-term trend data is not always available.
- 3.4 The headline figures for crime types are from the Office for National Statistics, any slight differences between the figures used in this report and other reports using police data are due to the use of different reporting systems and data being downloaded on different dates.
- 3.5 It is important to note that the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the data from March 2020 due to the unprecedented circumstances experienced since that time, with periods of varying degrees of restrictions placed on people and businesses. The restrictions have resulted in significant changes to the way people interact, and their freedom of movement, which in turn has changed criminal opportunities. For example, with more people working from home there were less vacant properties reducing the opportunities for residential burglaries, and shoplifting decreased while “non-essential” retail premises were shut. Although the increases in Domestic Abuse Violent Crime were broadly in line with pre-Covid trends, there is the concern that risk and harm were even higher during the period of restrictions on movement and opportunities to leave homes. Furthermore, the restrictions have resulted in more people using online platforms to work, shop, socialise and home-school during lockdowns. This has led to increased opportunities for cybercrime and exploitation to take place.
- 3.6 In addition to the analysis of key local and national datasets, the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) tool and tactical assessments were used to help inform the recommended priorities (See section 11).
- 3.7 The tools developed by the MoRiLE programme provide an opportunity to standardise and strengthen the approach to prioritisation amongst Community Safety Partnerships. MoRiLE became a nationally accredited way of working for all Police forces and other law enforcement agencies such as the National Crime Agency, to inform their Strategic Assessments.
- 3.8 The key benefits of the MoRiLE process are:
 - A transparent and informed decision-making process, that is multi-agency and secures buy-in from partners from an early stage.
 - Assessment of a range of different thematic areas and issues alongside each other.
 - Assessment of capability and capacity in relation to each thematic area.
 - Avoidance of bias in risk assessment.
 - Use of a common language in relation to threat, risk and harm.
 - A clear process that is easy to use and understand.

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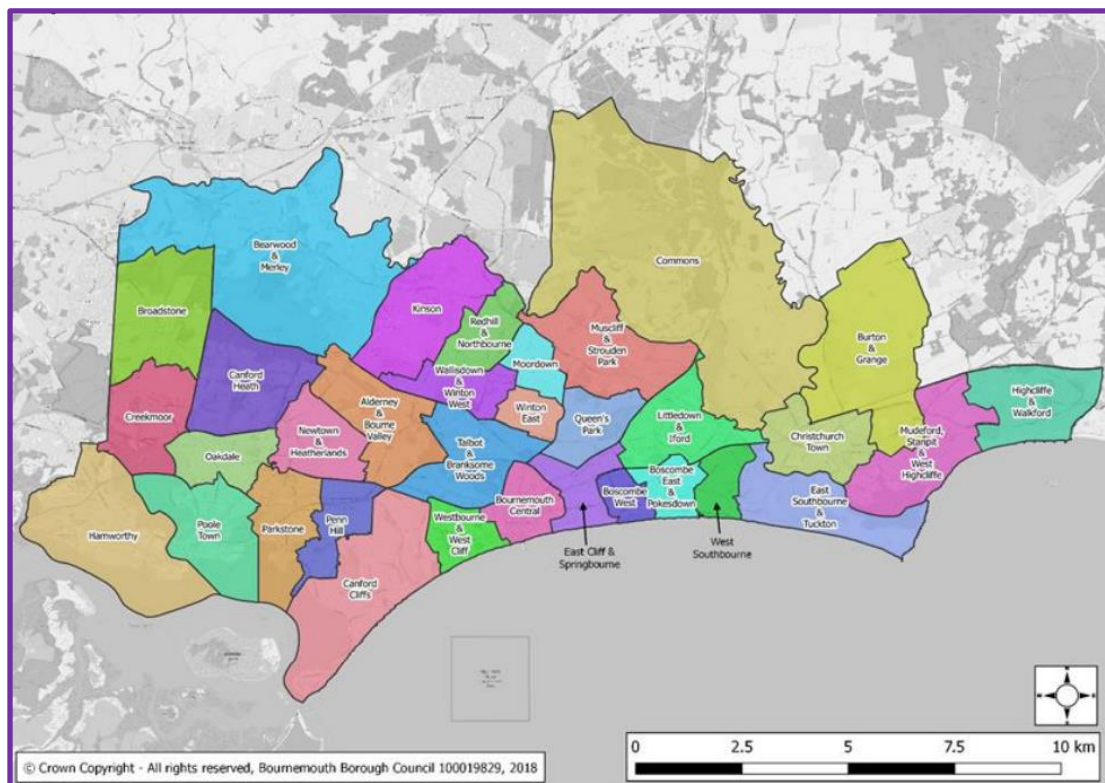
- 3.9 A key point of significance is that there is no direct mapping from MoRiLE ranking to partnership priority. CSP Priorities will differ due to a number of limitations of this process which are detailed in [Appendix A](#).
- 3.10 Significantly, a feature and possible weakness of the MoRiLE process is that it is easy to overlook the additional impact of the concentration – in time, in place, and in demographics - of some risks and threats. For example - Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents may score relatively low, partly due to 'low volumes' (acknowledging under-reporting), but also due to risk being statistically spread throughout the population, whilst in reality risk is concentrated in certain groups defined by vulnerability, ethnicity, faith, gender identity, or where and when individuals work, live, or travel. There are also limitations in the process where full datasets are not available.
- 3.11 Tactical Assessments completed for the Partnership Coordination Group (PCG) identified areas which were experiencing higher levels of crime and disorder or had upward trends. These were then assigned to task and finish groups to develop multi-agency action plans.

4 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole – Key Facts

4.1 Geographical

- 4.1.1 The area of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is in the county of Dorset located on the south coast. The area has 33 Wards, shown in Map 1, and is served by a range of local agencies and those with pan-Dorset responsibilities, such as Dorset Police and Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, and agencies with a wider area responsibility, such as Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Authority and National Probation Service. BCP Council was formed in April 2019.

Map 1: Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole



- 4.1.2 There are three Business Improvement Districts with the BCP area, [Poole BID](#), Bournemouth [Town Centre BID](#) and Bournemouth [Coastal BID](#).
- 4.1.3 BCP Council Licensing has seen an increase of new applications for premises licences in 2021 and the previous year 2020. In 2018 and 2019 on average thirty-five new applications per year were received, in 2020 this increased to 70 and so far this year (to October 2021), ninety-five new applications have been received. Included within those applications are a large number of late-night takeaways providing alcohol for delivery. As a result of lockdown, it was a business which proved to be successful, and it is likely this has continued. It is not possible to establish if many licenced premises closed down during this period.
- 4.1.4 Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority have six stations across the BCP area:
- Three Wholetime stations - Redhill Park, Westbourne, Springbourne;
 - Two that are both Wholetime and On-call stations - Poole and Christchurch;
 - One On-call station – Hamworthy.

4.2 Residential

4.2.1

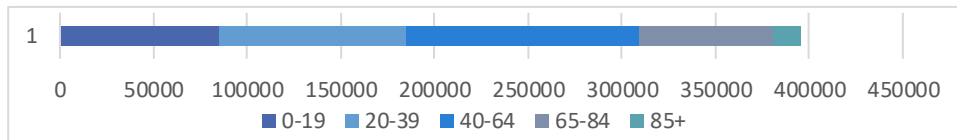


There were 173,805 [households](#) in the BCP area in 2018 and this is expected to grow to 180,413 by 2028, with around half of the growth taking place in Poole during this time.

4.2.2

Currently 64% are houses and 35% are flats (Census, 2011). There are over 1,500 [Houses of Multiple Occupation](#) (HMO).

4.3 Population



The mid-year 2019 [population](#) estimates 395,300 residents in BCP. The population is predicted to grow to 403,600 by 2028, a growth of 2% and it is expected that 24% of the local population will be aged over 65. Highcliffe & Walkford, Canford Cliffs, and Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe have the highest number of 65-year-olds. The highest number of – to 15-year-olds are in Muscliff & Strouden Park and Moordown wards.

4.3.1

[Ethnicity](#) data for BCP shows 88.4% white British and 5.1% other white. Asian and Asian British is 2.9% of the population and mixed or multiple ethnic group 1.7%. When considered alongside age groups 96.3% of those aged over 65 are white British, and 83.8% of those aged between 25 to 49 are white British.

Over 85 languages are spoken across the BCP area.

4.3.2

Data on [religion](#) shows 59.7% of the population is Christian, 29.3% have no religion and 1.2% of the population is Muslim.

4.3.3

Data on sexual orientation is limited at a local level, however, data on [marital status](#) shows 2% of people in a same sex relationship.

4.3.4

Armed Forces statistics in 2020 estimate there are 15,575 veterans living in the BCP area, and 1,040 serving personnel.

4.4 Deprivation

4.4.1

45,400 people live in an area that is amongst the 20% most deprived in England, including 8,900 0 - 16-year-olds and 6,200 over 65-year-olds. BCP has nine areas in the most deprived 10% in England where 16,000 residents live. The greatest levels of deprivation are in Boscombe West, Kinson, East Cliff & Springbourne, Alderney & Bourne Valley, and Muscliff & Strouden Park.

4.4.2

82,800 people live in an area that is amongst the 20% **least** deprived in England.

4.5 Education


4.5.1

There are three universities in the BCP area:

- Bournemouth University, which has some 19,000 students, including approximately 3,000 from outside the UK. Its Talbot Campus is in Poole, adjacent to North Bournemouth. The university also has a “Lansdowne Campus” dispersed around central Bournemouth. It provides a significant amount of student accommodation, but privately renting students are concentrated in the Winton and Charminster areas of North Bournemouth.

- The Arts University Bournemouth, with approximately 3,500 students, has a campus adjacent to Bournemouth University's in Poole, and has a number of accommodation blocks in and around Bournemouth University's "Lansdowne Campus". Students privately renting are again concentrated in the Winton and Charminster areas.
 - BCP's newest university is the AECC University College (formerly the *Anglo-European College of Chiropractic*) and has about 800 students. AECC's campus is in Boscombe.
- 4.5.2 Within the state sector there are some 70 Primary and Middle Schools, 20 Secondary, four Grammar (two single sex boys; two girls), and two providers of Further Education - Bournemouth Academy of Modern Music, and Bournemouth and Poole College. Bournemouth and Poole College has two main campuses, in Poole and in Bournemouth town centre, and a number of other sites, and currently has 11,000 full- and part-time students across a wide range of courses.
- 4.5.3 There are also nine independent schools, and 13 Special Schools / Alternative Education providers split across the state and independent sectors.
- 4.5.4 There are 35 registered Language Schools in the BCP area - Brexit and travel restrictions resulting from the coronavirus pandemic are likely to have had a significant adverse impact on this sector.
- 4.5.5 Education, skills, and training is one of the domains included in the English Indices of Deprivation (2019). This domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population and is the most prevalent form of deprivation across all three towns in BCP. In this domain, 13 of 233 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) fall within the most deprived 10% in England. These LSOAs are in the following ward areas: Canford Heath, Hamworthy, Alderney & Bourne Valley, Kinson, East Cliff & Springbourne, and Burton & Grange.
- 4.5.6 BCP has historically had a higher-than-average rate of both Fixed Term Exclusions (FTE) and Permanent Exclusions (PEX). The PEX rate in BCP went from 0.01 to 0.03 in primary and 0.30 to 0.47 in secondary schools in the three years prior to the Covid pandemic. The primary FTE rate in BCP of 2.4 is over two-thirds higher than the national at 1.4. The secondary rate in BCP is 15.0 compared to national rate of 10.7. The most prevalent reasons recorded for FTE and PEX is persistent disruptive behaviour (PEX 52%, FTE 48%) followed by physical assault against a pupil (PEX 9.6%, FTE 13%).
- 4.5.7 During the 2020/21 academic year, 389 young people aged 16 to 18 who were identified as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and 247 were successfully moved to education, employment or training. This last year has been more challenging than normal due to the Covid19 pandemic.


4.6 Employment

- 4.6.1  Currently 61% of the total resident population are of working age. Median annual pay for residents of, and people working in, BCP is slightly lower than the national average. The latest unemployment data from the Annual Population Survey is 4.7% for BCP and 4.8% for England (Jan-Dec 2020).
- 4.6.2 According to data from DWP, 8,823 children are in absolute low income in BCP (less than 60% of median income). This is 10% of those aged 0-19 and 13% of those aged under 16.

4.7 Young People

- 4.7.1 Overall, most children have a generally good start in BCP, comparing favourably with the national average in a number of key measures according to the [Local Authority Interactive Tool](#) and [Public Health England](#):
- Lower infant mortality rates lower than the national average (3.7 compared with 3.9 per 1,000, 2018),
 - Lower proportion of children who are overweight or obese in reception (20% compared with 23%, 2020),
 - Lower proportion of children in low-income families (12.7% compared with 19.1%, 2020),
 - Higher population vaccination coverage for Dtap / IPV / Hib (95% compared with 93.8%, 2020/21), and
 - Good school readiness as evidenced by achieving a good level of development at the end of reception (73.8% compared with 71.8%, 2018/19).
- 4.7.2 However, as per the theme running through this assessment, there will be children who are not having this experience and may face a number of adversities, making them more vulnerable to harm, including exploitation.
- 4.7.3 Children in the BCP area are less likely to be subject to Child Protection Plans or 'in care' than the National average, with:
- 304 children subject to Child Protection Plans (39.8 compared with 41.4 per 10,000 population of 0-17 years, 2021),
 - 430 looked after children (56 compared with 67 per 10,000 population of 0-17yrs, 2021)
- 4.7.3 The rates of children in need and those who are first time entrants to the criminal justice system are higher than the national average and have increased since the previous year with:
- 353 per 10,000 children in need compared with the national average of 321.2, and up by 17% from 301.8 in 2020.
 - 339.7 per 100,000 first time entrants to the criminal justice system compared with 169.2 nationally, and up slightly by 2% from 332.8 in 2019, while there has been a 21% reduction in the national average.

4.8 Health

- 4.8.1  The [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) (JSNA) is an assessment of the health and wellbeing needs of the local community to support the development of strategic plans and commissioning decisions.
- 4.8.2 Whilst 8% of the whole population have a [disability](#) that limits their day to day activity a lot and 10% are limited a little, this percentage varies considerably when also considering age groups. 13% of 65–74-year-olds are limited a lot, 24% of 75–85-year-olds, and 47% of people of over 85 years.
- 4.8.3 On 1 October 2020 the Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospital NHS Foundation Trust merged with Poole Hospital to become the University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust. Hospitals covered by the Trust include:
- Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Bournemouth.
 - Poole General Hospital;
 - Christchurch Hospital, Christchurch.
- 4.8.4 Emergency Departments are available at the Royal Bournemouth and Poole General hospitals. Both are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

4.8.5 COVID-19 is one of the biggest challenges for our health and care systems for generations. As of the end of May 2021, BCP had seen 25,497 people testing positive for COVID-19, with 2,879 admissions to hospital and sadly 861 deaths (within 28 days of a positive test). Beyond the immediate impacts of the disease and system pressure are the wider long-term impacts on health and wellbeing, and the risk of further widening existing health inequalities. (Public Health Dorset, Updated May 2021). Variants of concern have continued to emerge and require the adaption of restrictions to protect the public.

4.8.6 See Section 6 for details about mental health and substance misuse.

4.9 Travel and Tourism

4.9.1 There are approximately 15 million visitors each year to the BCP area, spending £800 million locally, with nearly 8,000 jobs in BCP, equivalent to 5,790 full time roles, estimated to be linked to tourism.


4.9.2 The estimated tourist accommodation capacity in the BCP area is 23,824, including around 15,500 are in hotels, guesthouses, and B&B's, 2,264 in camping and caravans, 3,478 second homes and 1,627 in Marina berths.

4.9.3 In usual times Bournemouth Airport flies to 25 different international destinations throughout the year and is used by more than 670,000 passengers.

4.9.4  Poole Harbour is the second largest natural harbour in the world, and BCP is also home to Christchurch Harbour. The Port of Poole had 208,000 passenger movements in 2018 with regular sailings from Poole to Cherbourg and Santander, and to Jersey and Guernsey and onwards to St Malo. Increasing numbers of cruises were departing from the port.

4.9.5 BCP has 15 miles of coastline including nine Blue Flag and fourteen Seaside Awards beaches.



4.8.6 Bournemouth Town Centre has also achieved and retained its Purple Flag accreditation for its evening and night-time economy (ENTE) which it first won in 2010.  The award is similar to the Blue Flag for beaches – which aims to raise the standard and broaden the appeal of town and city centres between the hours of 17:00 & 05:00.

4.9.7 The Seasonal Response Data and Partnership Review 2021 notes:

- Over 3,750,000 people visited the Pier approach in between April and end of August, 34% (961,019) more than the same period in 2020
- The highest footfall day on 13th June 2021 saw over 58,000 visitors through pier approach, in comparison the highest footfall day in 2020 (25 June) saw 50,823 visitors.
- Hotel capacity peaked at 96% occupancy over the busiest weekend, weekdays remained at a minimum of 70% occupancy even during the school holidays, but weekends saw a generally busy trend of 85-95% occupancy.

4.9.8. Recent surveys and analysis by the Insight Team¹ included questions to determine whether beachfront users were residents of the BCP Council area, day visitors or working in the BCP Council area, or staying visitors (overnight or on holiday). The

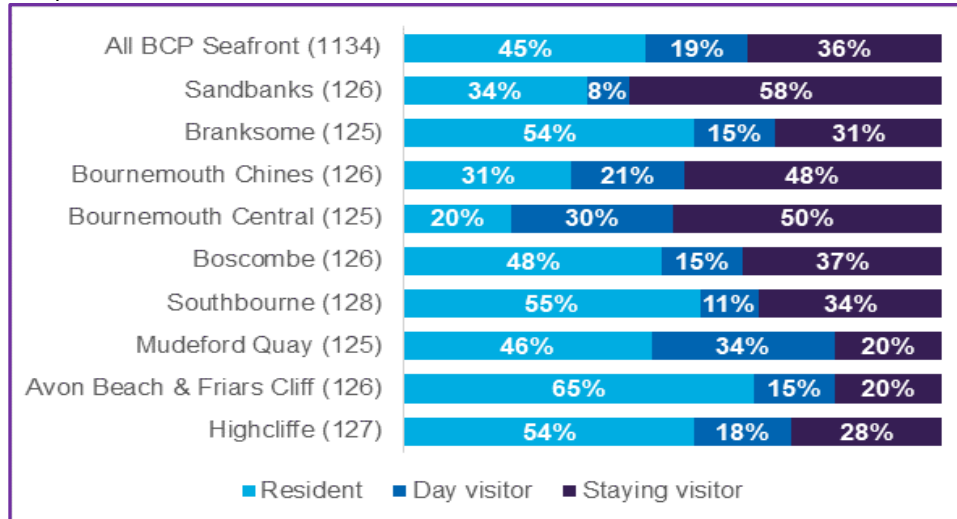
¹ Seafront Visitor Survey 2021, August 2021, Insight Team BCP Council

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report concludes that “Just under half (45%) said that they were residents of the BCP area, more than a third (36%) were staying visitors and the remainder (19%) were day visitors. This is quite different to the visitor profile in 2019, when more than half of those interviewed (56%) were staying visitors. The remainder were split almost equally between residents (21%) and day visitors (23%). The 2021 visitor profile is more similar to the profile of the 2017 Bournemouth and Poole visitor survey which was consistent with previous Bournemouth seafront visitor surveys.”

- 4.9.9 Differentiation between different areas of the BCP beachfront were evident in the report, shown in Graph 2, breakdown of visitor types to different areas of BCP beachfront in Aug 2021.

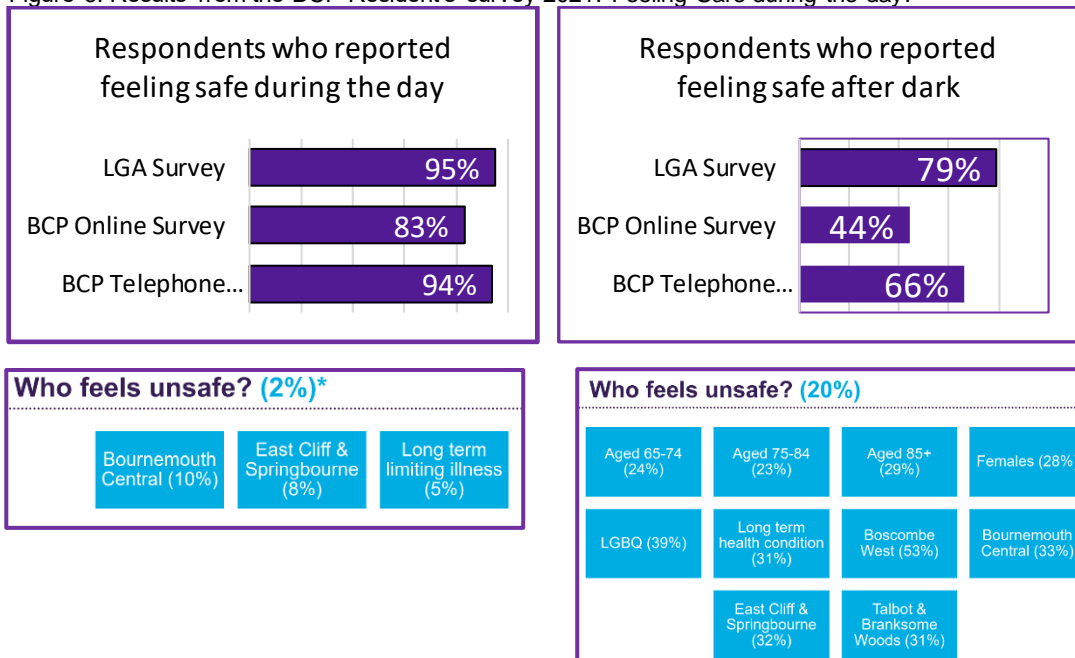
Graph 2:



5 Resident Survey

- 5.1 BCP Council Residents' Survey 2021, undertaken by the Consultation and Research Team, used both online and telephone surveys to collect data. This is the first survey of its kind for BCP Council and will provide residents' views on the local area and council services. The survey will provide baseline information which will be used to measure satisfaction and perceptions over time.
- 5.2 The survey has a confidence interval of +/- 2.5% which means that, if it were practical to ask every resident to take part, there is a 95% chance the true answer would be within 2.5% of the result obtained in this survey. Some survey results have been benchmarked against the LGA resident satisfaction with council poll.
- 5.3 As can be seen from Figure 3 most respondents felt safe during the day, although those living in Bournemouth Central, East Cliff & Springbourne and those with long-term limiting illnesses were most likely to indicate that they felt unsafe during the day. BCP respondents were less likely to feel safe than LGA respondents, and those who completed the online survey were less likely to feel safe than those who completed the telephone survey. Those living in Boscombe West, Bournemouth Central, East Cliff & Springbourne and Talbot & Branksome Woods were less likely to feel safe after dark. Females were more likely to feel unsafe after dark, as were those with long term health conditions, LGBTQ+ and over 65s.

Figure 3: Results from the BCP Resident's survey 2021: Feeling Safe during the day:



- 5.4 Overall, 12% of respondents had a high perception of ASB in their area. Respondents in Boscombe West (49%) were most likely to have a high perception of ASB than any other area or demographic group, followed by those who were LGBTQ+ (30%).
- 5.5 The ASB with the largest proportion of residents thinking it was a very or fairly big problem were:
- Rubbish or litter lying around (24% phone, 57% online)
 - People using or dealing drugs (24% phone, 45% online)
 - People being drunk or rowdy in public places (20% phone, 37% online)
 - Groups hanging around in the streets (18% phone, 36% online)
 - Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage (16% phone, 39% online).

6 Additional Needs / Risk Factors

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 Research² has shown that the risk of being a victim or perpetrator of crime and/or anti-social behaviour increases with the frequency and severity of exposure to risk factors and the number of risk factors present. The age at which the exposure occurs also has an impact, with the younger the individual, the greater the impact. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) research links childhood traumas/experiences (such as abuse, neglect, and dysfunctional home environments) to long-term impacts on an individual's health, wellbeing, and life chances. A British study³ found that those who had experienced four or more ACEs were significantly more likely to exhibit behaviours such as smoking, harmful alcohol use, drug misuse, risky sexual behaviour, or being a victim or perpetrator of crime. This growing body of research demonstrates the importance of early intervention in order to mitigate some of the consequences of ACEs, while providing a trauma informed approach when working with young people and adults who experienced ACEs as a child.

6.2 Substance Misuse or Abuse

- 6.2.1 While some people are able to drink alcohol responsibly, drug and alcohol misuse and dependence can have a far reaching and devastating impact on individuals and communities. However, there is evidence to suggest that being in treatment for substance misuse improves health outcomes, family relationships and reduces levels of offending. It has been [estimated](#) that for every £1 spent on treatment, £4 will be saved from reduced demands on health, emergency, law enforcement and prison services. In section 7.1.10, below, we note strong empirical data linking acquisitive crime with drug use and dependency.
- 6.2.2 Problematic drink and drug use among under-18s rarely occurs in isolation and is frequently a symptom of wider problems. [Evidence](#) suggests that effective specialist substance misuse interventions contribute to improved health and wellbeing, better educational attainment, reductions in the numbers of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and reduced risk-taking behaviour.
- 6.2.3 The most recent data available from the Crime Survey of England & Wales (CSEW 2019/20) found that overall drug use had remained stable [nationally](#). Young people (aged 16-24 years) were more likely to use drugs, with 21% reporting taking drugs in the last year compared with 9.4% of all adults (16-59 years). Cannabis was the most popular drug for both age groups (18.7% of 16-24 years and 7.8% of 16-59 years), while powder cocaine was the second most popular for 16–59-year-olds (2.6%), and nitrous oxide for the 16–24-year-olds (8.7%).
- 6.2.4 While the CSEW does enquire about the use of opiates and crack cocaine, it is a household survey and does not reach those who are homeless or live in hostels or other arrangements where opiate use may be more prevalent. The [Public Health Institute](#) provide estimates of people who use opiates and/or crack cocaine and the

² E.g., Pycroft, A & Bartollas, C (eds.) (2014) Applying complexity theory: whole systems approaches in criminal justice and social work. Bristol: Policy Press

³ Bellis, M. A., Hughes, K., Leckenby, N., Perkins, C., & Lowey, H. (2014). National household survey of adverse childhood experiences and their relationship with resilience to health-harming behaviours in England. *BMC medicine*, 12(1), 72.

most recent estimates for 2016/17 were 1,932 for Bournemouth and Poole, No separate figure was available for Christchurch.

- 6.2.5 Hospital admissions due to substance misuse (15-24 years) have been gradually increasing in BCP since 2012/13-2014/15. Numbers are small, so three-year averages are used; BCP had a rate of 135 per 100,000 in 2017/18-2019/20, which was significantly higher than the England average (84.7 per 100,000).
- 6.2.6 The number of drug-related deaths has remained constant in Bournemouth and Christchurch over the last three years, as shown in Table 1. Although there has been a reduction in Poole, caution should be taken when drawing conclusions from this as the numbers are small, and long-term trend data is not available.

Table 1: Number of Drug Related Deaths in BCP April to September 2019, 2020, 2021⁴:

	2019	2020	2021
Bournemouth	15	17	16
Christchurch	1		1
Poole	7	3	1

- 6.2.7 Generally more of the people who died from drug-related deaths (DRDs) were male (in 2021, 81%). Dorset Police's Drug Related Death Coordinator observes that there does not appear to be any evidence in the data for a substantial change of patterns relating to DRDs. Heroin and other opioid drugs remain the primary contributory drug to the majority of DRDs. He did, however, note small increases in 2020/21 of illicit methadone and cocaine toxicity being detected in toxicology and causal / contributory to a small number of deaths, but the numbers are too low to be relied on as statistically relevant.
- 6.2.8 During July and August 2021 there was an increase regionally in the Southeast of Drug Related Deaths and related incidents of near miss overdoses, that after investigation and analysis appear to be connected to the distribution of heroin which had been cut with Isotonitazene, a synthetic opiate. One death in July was confirmed in Bournemouth that was attributed to this drug.
- 6.2.9 Dorset Police data for drink- and drug-related driving offence arrests show a disproportionate concentration in the BCP area. Although we are unable to quantify the impact of resourcing and enforcement, the figures show a significant disparity:

	BCP	Dorset
Drink Related Arrests	388	148
Drug Related Arrests	174	58
Fail to Provide a Specimen of Breath	23	10
Total	585	216

⁴ 2021 data is suspected DRDs to date and, in some incidents, pending Coroner's conclusion and confirmed causes of death.

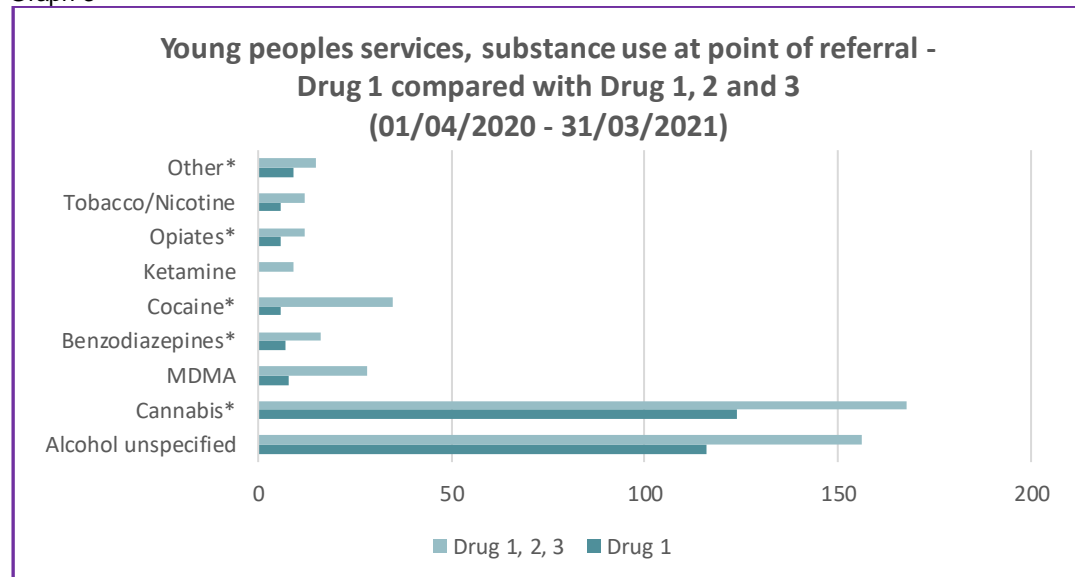
- 6.2.10 Nationally liver disease is now the second leading cause of premature death among people of working age – there was a 43% increase in alcoholic liver deaths between 2001 and 2019, and almost 21% between 2019 and 2020. There is also evidence to suggest that there has been changes to people's drinking habits during the pandemic, with 30% drinking more frequently and 16% drinking more units per drinking session. This means it is likely that the pandemic is exacerbating existing trends.
- 6.2.11 BCP already had a higher rate than the England average for a number of alcohol related hospital measures in 2019/20, prior to the pandemic.⁵ Alcohol related hospital admissions have been increasing in BCP since 2017/18. The most recent data showed a rate of 2,088 per 100,000 which is significantly higher than the England average (1,815 per 100,000).⁶ Admission episodes for mental and behavioural disorders due to the use of alcohol have also been increasing since 2017/18, the most recent rate is 137.9 per 100,000, which is significantly higher than the England average of 74.1 per 100,000. The rate of admission episodes for alcohol-related cardiovascular disease for males was 1,540 per 100,000 compared with the England average of 1,482 per 100,000. The rate of admission episodes for alcoholic liver disease was 175.9 per 100,000 compared with the England average of 139 per 100,000.
- 6.2.12 Adult residents of BCP have access to a range of local and national [drug and alcohol support services](#). From 1st November the primary local provider commissioned by BCP Council to both adults and young people are [We Are With You](#), formerly Addaction.
- 6.2.13 The Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Team (DACT) has been successful in securing over £400,000 (2021/222) for additional drug treatment crime and harm reduction activity. The aim of the funding is to support improvements to reduce drug related offending and deaths. This will be achieved locally by increasing access to naloxone, increasing residential rehabilitation placements, trialling Buprenorphine medication for some people, implementing a team of outreach workers, increased capacity for Out of Court Disposals, offer specialist counselling and increase structured support and aftercare provision for people within the criminal justice system. Joint working will take place with the Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Team, and within custody and court settings as well as the community.
- 6.2.14 The BCP DACT was also successful in securing over £688,000 government funding to support for those with drug and alcohol support needs to get the help they need to rebuild their lives. The local project includes a team of workers who actively engage with people in temporary/emergency accommodation, through outreach to access treatment and, continue to support people until they are stable enough to access services on their own. The team is made up of recovery workers, nurses, and prescribers. Outcomes for the project include improved health and wellbeing for people with complex needs. 2-year funding has been confirmed to deliver the project. In the first six months of the project commencing 189 individuals have been assessed by the team, with 165 commencing treatment. 42% are aged between 35–44 years-old, with 5% being under 25 years old and 72% of individuals are male. 87% of individuals have primary opiate misuse and 55% of mental health issues.

⁵ Local Alcohol Profiles for England, PHE, most recent data is for 2019/20

⁶ Broad measure (although the narrow measure is also significantly higher than the England average)

- 6.2.15 The offer of Naloxone has been extended and approved for all frontline workers in BCP Council who will be offered training through the commissioned community drug and alcohol provider (We Are With You) and the option to carry either injectable Naloxone or nasal (Nyxoid).
- 6.2.16 BCP is just about to start a project (February 2022, for a twelve-month period) with Alcohol Change UK about identifying individuals with cognitive impairment due to alcohol misuse and pathways of services for them. Cognitive impairment is a frequent factor in the exploitation of individuals, which has been highlighted in a number of SCRs (Serious Case Reviews) and DHRs (Domestic Homicide Reviews).
- 6.2.17 [Local treatment data](#) shows the number of clients in treatment in 2019-20 was 2,019, of which 1,067 were new presentations. Of the total number of adults in treatment, 34% were a parent or adult living with children, 25% a parent not living with children and 41% not parents.
- 6.2.18 Between July 2020 and June 2021 there were 118 young people in structured treatment in the BCP area, this is a decrease of 14 compared to the period ending June 2020 and 28 since 2019. (NDTMS)
- 6.2.19 The highest proportion of primary substances which have resulted in young people accessing structured treatment is the use of Cannabis, closely followed by alcohol. Graph 3 shows substance use at the point of triage/initial assessment into the young people services for 2020/21. 'Drug 1' is the substance that brought the person into treatment. Drugs 2 and 3 are additional substances that brought the person into treatment. Drugs 1, 2 and 3 are included even if the person is no longer actively using the substance. If there is no additional substance, this can be recorded as such.

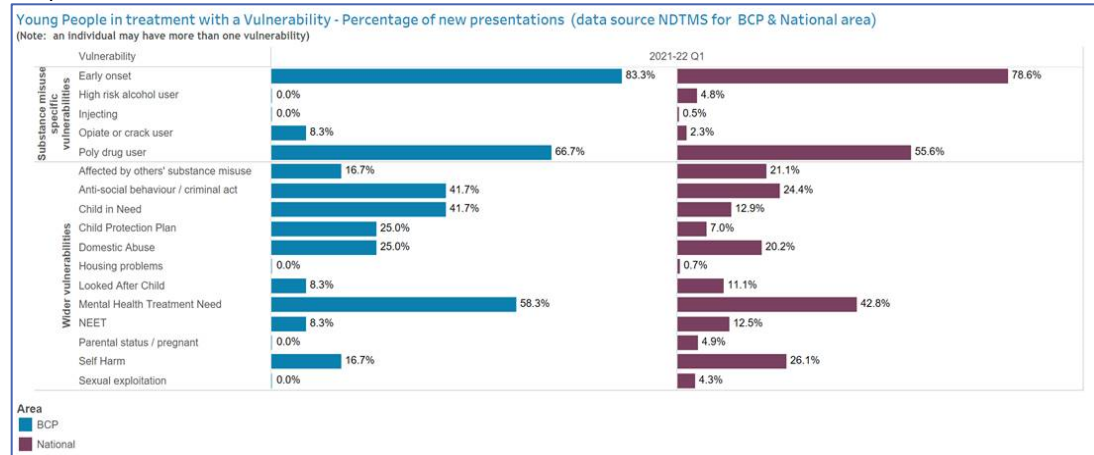
Graph 3



*groupings of substance types e.g., cocaine could also include crack, cocaine hydrochloride or cocaine unspecified.

- 6.2.20 Young people's vulnerabilities are captured at point of assessment. The vulnerability chart below, Graph 4, gives a snapshot for Quarter 1 only of 2021/22.

Graph 4



6.3 Mental Health

- 6.3.1 Good mental health is an asset associated with positive outcomes for individuals and communities, whereas poor mental health is associated with a variety of adversities. The relationship between poor mental health and other aspects such as substance misuse is complex. For example, someone may self-medicate if they are unable to access treatment, or the use of substances may result in a decline in mental health. Similarly, [research](#) has shown that while over half of prisoners have poor mental health, the crimes were often committed for other reasons, such as poverty, homelessness, substance misuse and unemployment.
- 6.3.2 Research has also found that people with mental health problems are considerably more likely to be victims of crime than the general population. [Research](#) by Mind found that people with severe mental health problems were found to experience high rates of sexual and domestic violence and were four times as likely to be victimised by their relatives and acquaintances than those from the general population.
- 6.3.3 2.89% of school pupils have social, emotional, or mental health needs, which is higher than the England average (2.7%). BCP had a rate of hospital admissions for mental health conditions for under 18yrs of 119.1 per 100,000 in 2019/20, which is significantly higher than the England average of 89.5 per 100,000. BCP's rate of hospital admissions for self-harm (10-24 yrs.) was 814.8 per 100,000, almost double the average rate for England (439.2 per 100,000).
- 6.3.4 BCP also had a significantly higher rate of in-patient stays in secondary mental health services than the England average, 315 per 100,000 compared with 243 per 100,000. As for young people, the emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm for the whole population was significantly higher than the England average, 224.2 per 100,000 in BCP compared with 192.6 per 100,000 across England. Furthermore, the suicide rate was slightly higher than the England average, 11.1 per 100,000 compared with 10.4 per 100,000. The rate for males (17.6 per 100,000) was higher than for females, (7.3 per 100,000), but the rate for females was significantly higher than the England average.
- 6.3.5 Research examining the impact of the pandemic on mental health has found that people have been experiencing that pandemic in different ways, and that this experience is dynamic. [Research](#) into suicide rates found no overall increase in the first six months of the pandemic, but this was conducted at a whole population level, and may have obscured trends amongst particular groups. The pandemic appears to

have created a complex mix of risk and protective factors, where some people experienced increased support from their community and others may have suffered financial hardship and isolation.

- 6.3.6 Research has found that the pandemic and associated lockdown and restrictions exacerbated anxiety for some children and young people, particularly those with autism or eating disorders. Anger/irritability difficulties in concentration and trouble sleeping were also [reported](#). These issues were found to be linked to a lack of routine, excessive information about Covid-19, previous mental health problems, increased use of social media, and a relative doing a front-line role relating to Covid-19.

6.4 Missing Persons

- 6.4.1 Dorset Police recorded a 20.8% decrease in the number of missing persons reports in the BCP area in 2020/21 compared to the previous year, from 4,217 to 3,338. This decrease may be partly attributed to altered behaviours in response to Covid restrictions, for example young people may have been subject to greater scrutiny and company in the home as a result of lockdowns. In examining age profiling the following became apparent:

- More than half (53%) of the missing persons were under 18 years
- 24% were 18-34 years
- The number of missing reports reduce in the older age groups (8% 35-44 years, 6% 45-54 years)
- In females this trend of lower reports as age increases continues in over 54 years (5%)
- In males this is not the case with 12% being over 54 years, notably with 4.3% being over 74 years.

6.5 Homelessness

- 6.5.1 Previous research has shown that homeless people often have additional or complex needs that increase their vulnerability, particularly in relation to being a victim or perpetrator of crime. An example is some recent [research](#) by the MHCLG with people who are currently or recently have slept rough, or were at risk of having to sleep rough. This research highlighted these vulnerabilities:

- 82% had a current mental health vulnerability
- 65% had been a victim of crime in the previous six months
- 60% had a current substance misuse need.
- 53% had been in prison
- 50% had long-standing physical impairment, illness or disability
- 35% had experienced domestic abuse
- 26% had been in care
- 21% had been homeless before they were 16 years old
- 19% had a learning disability

- 6.5.2 In order to get an idea of the number of people who are rough sleeping, from 2010 a snapshot approach was taken, whereby each area counts the number of people sleeping rough one night in November. There are limitations, as this does not take into account those who find places that are well hidden or are sleeping in outbuildings etc and it will be an under-estimate. However, it does give an idea of trends and a base to start from.

- 6.5.3 The most recent count was in November 2020, while there was a national lockdown. During the pandemic, a national scheme – ‘Everyone In’ was launched, and local

authorities were asked to immediately house rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping, to protect their health and stop wider transmission of the Covid-19 virus. This means that there has been a 37% reduction in rough sleepers since the 2019 nationally.

- 6.5.4 BCP was one of the ten areas with the largest reductions; there was a 65% reduction from 72 in 2019 to 25 in [2020](#).

6.6 Radicalisation

- 6.6.1 There were 34 Prevent referrals in Dorset in 2020 compared to 48 in the previous year. 22 of the 34 referrals were from the BCP area. In the majority of referrals there is vulnerability present but no ideology, followed by mixed, unclear or unstable ideology. In almost all cases referred to Channel, there is some degree of mental health concerns or learning difficulties.
- 6.6.2 Proposals have been implemented to formalise the Channel Panel in line with most recent Government guidance. A fixed membership has been agreed and monthly meeting dates set. A Channel Development Day has been organised for members of the Panel.
- 6.6.3 The Prevent Partnership have chosen the following priorities to focus on:
- Workforce Development
 - Education
 - Community Engagement.
- 6.6.4 At the regional level, the vulnerability to radicalisation (V2R) are assessed as including:
- Terrorist use of online space and an increased use of the internet by young people;
 - Self-initiated terrorism – those who are radicalised without face-to-face contact with extremist groups;
 - The rise of right-wing extremism and cases with unclear, mixed, or unstable ideologies.
- 6.6.5 Factors contributing to the risks in BCP:
- Children and young people have been subject to school closures during the original 2020 Covid 19 restrictions and into 2021. There are concerns that they have spent increased time online, in an unsupervised way. In addition, there are increased concerns about the impact on young people's mental health due to the stress of online learning and isolation;
 - Stickers by "Hundred Handers", a right-wing nationalism group, have been seen in the Bournemouth area on two occasions;
 - Anti-lockdown protests were happening regularly in Bournemouth and around one hundred people attended one march. These are linked to conspiracy theories that sometimes coincide into extremist narratives. Anti-lockdown protests and fake news/conspiracy theories also increase tensions;
 - The Israel/Palestine conflict has led to local demonstrations, mainly in favour of the Palestine cause, which potentially raises tensions within the significant local Jewish community. There have been reports of hate incidents linked to these protests;
 - Increases in reported Hate Crimes, particularly racially motivated – see section 8.2, *Prevalence*, below;

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- Prevent training is now all conducted online, via the Home Office courses. Additional information is disseminated to schools and colleges, three times per year, but there is limited face to face training available for professionals

7 Crime

7.1 Overview of Crime

- 7.1.1 There was a reduction in police [recorded crime](#) in BCP through 2020 and into the early part of 2021, which is consistent with the 13% reduction nationally from 2019/20 (excluding fraud and computer misuse offences). However, crime levels across the country have been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. The largest reductions in crimes were between April and June 2020, corresponding with the first national restrictions beginning at the end of March 2020.
- 7.1.2 The telephone version of the Crime Survey for England and Wales found that the reductions in police recorded crime were offset by increases in Fraud and computer misuse offences, which means that there was no change in the overall level of crime reported to the survey. This displacement reflects the changing opportunities for criminals during the pandemic, at a time when many people were increasingly using online platforms for work, schooling, shopping, and socialising.
- 7.1.3 While the majority of crime types reduced in BCP compared with 2019/20, some types of crime saw an increase in [BCP](#). Most notably increases were seen in:
- Stalking and harassment (14%, 416)
 - Public order offences (9%, 178)
- 7.1.4 The 14% increase in stalking and harassment offences is in the context of a larger 28% rise nationally. While this increase is likely to be at least partially accounted for by victims having more confidence to report to the police and improvements in police recording of this crime type, considering the current focus on Violence Against Women and Girls, it is recommended that further analysis is conducted to explore this in more detail.
- 7.1.5 The 9% increase in public order offences is in the context of a 5% increase nationally and is likely to be related to incidents where people were not following covid restrictions and being challenged although further work would need to be done to verify this.
- 7.1.6 There have been reductions in almost all types of theft offences in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, with the exception of small increases in cycle theft (4%, 28 offences) in Bournemouth and theft from a motor vehicle (7%, 9 offences) in Christchurch.
- 7.1.7 While the lower levels of most types of offences is not usual for pre-pandemic years, they are likely to reflect the patterns of crime that we will see while the pandemic and restrictions are ongoing.
- 7.1.8 There was a 33% (4,354 incidents) increase in anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the police compared with 2019/20. This increase is likely due to changes in behaviour, with people at home more and reporting neighbours for breaches of covid restrictions, and also more people visiting seaside towns when restrictions were eased but foreign travel was still not feasible for many. Further detail from local data sources can be found in Section 8, Anti-Social Behaviour, below.
- 7.1.9 Trends in violent crimes, such as sexual violence, and violence with injury, have been complex in BCP. Peaks and troughs, as well as overall trends, have been influenced by external factors such as the pandemic, but also may be disguising disproportionate impacts on some groups within our community.

- 7.1.10 Drugs and acquisitive crime – latest data from Dorset Police suggests that, where there is an identified suspect, in 2021/22, 61.5% of Vehicle Crime (theft of / theft from) suspects have a drug warning ‘marker’, together with 51.3% of Dwelling Burglary, and 43.1% of Robbery suspects.

7.2 Serious Violence

- 7.2.1 The [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill](#), which is currently at the Reports Stage at the House of Commons, is expected to establish a statutory responsibility on ‘specified authorities’ to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence. That will include identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in our area, and the causes of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing it. These bodies are likely to be encouraged to adopt the World Health Organisation’s [definition](#) of a Public Health approach which is one that ‘*Seeks to improve the health and safety of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence.*’
- 7.2.2 In the 2018 [Serious Violence Strategy](#), the government defines serious violence as “specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing. It also includes emerging crime threats faced in some areas of the country such as the use of corrosive substances as a weapon.
- 7.2.3 There have been reductions overall in the crime types associated with serious violence: ‘most serious violence,’ robbery, possession of a weapon and drug offences since 2019/20. However, while levels of these crimes remain much lower in Christchurch than Bournemouth and Poole, small numerical increases were seen in most serious violence (fewer than five) and robbery (fewer than five), no reduction was seen in possession of a weapon, and there was a 68% increase in drug offences. Currently the numerical increases are very small, but in the context of reductions in other areas, this should be monitored.
- 7.2.4 While the level of robberies had reduced since 2019/20, Tactical Assessments over the summer of 2021, particularly for the Problem Solving (SARA) group covering Bournemouth Gardens, highlighted robberies perpetrated by young people as a concerning issue. This observation was reinforced by information from hospitals in respect of young people attending with significant injuries. The robberies fell into one of three categories:
- Drug related – typically unreported.
 - Opportunistic targeting of other young people for personal property such as phones.
 - Apparently spontaneous robberies involving significant violence, typically following a random interaction that becomes confrontational.
- 7.2.5 A Knife Crime Review by Dorset Police in July 2021 reported that:
- Dorset experienced the lowest number of knife crimes per 1,000 population (0.395) compared to other similar areas in 2021.
 - Bournemouth South continues to account for nearly a third of all knife crime recorded by Dorset Police across both the BCP and Dorset County areas combined, and there are links to areas with higher levels of deprivation.
 - Bournemouth North has seen the highest increase across the BCP and Dorset County areas (28.3%, 13).

- The average age for suspects of knife possession offences in Bournemouth East has fallen from 30.74 years to just 20.20 years, suggesting this is now disproportionately affecting younger people.
- The proportion of knife possession offences related to drugs has doubled over the last four years, from 9.3% (18 of 194) in the 12 months to June 2018, to 18.0% (32 of 178) in the 12 months to June 2021.
- Male knife crime suspects are more likely to be aged under 18 (24.1%) than their female counterparts (7.7%)

7.2.6 2020/21 proved an unprecedented time due to the pandemic and an exceptionally difficult and unusual time for town centres and the night-time economy in particular, with significant periods of closure and restrictions placed on licensed premises. Alcohol related violence reduced by 20% (261 incidents) in Bournemouth and 6% (33 incidents) in Poole, although it increased very slightly in Christchurch 11% (14 incidents).

7.2.7 Data from Hospital Emergency departments is collected, and this is referred to as [Cardiff Model](#) data. The aim is to use other data sources to complement police data. Analysis of data for the period 01/04/20 to 30/06/21 suggests a peak time of non-accidental injury in BCP, resulting in an individual attending Hospital Emergency Departments, as being approximately 23:00, for males and overall. For females, the peak time is earlier in the evening, and far less pronounced. (Note that this data will contain both “public place” and Domestic Abuse related violence). This data also suggests that, after “body part,” knives are the single most frequent type of weapon that individuals attending Hospital Emergency Departments identify as responsible for their non-accidental injury. Although numbers are low and data incomplete, it suggests that 85-90% of victims, where a knife is stated to have been used, are male.

7.2.8 This assessment concludes that while serious violence is less of a problem in BCP than many other areas, and there have been reductions during the pandemic, there are concerns around young victims and perpetrators of knife crime, and drug related violence.

7.3 Domestic Abuse

7.3.1 Domestic Abuse is defined as *“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:*

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

‘Controlling behaviour’ is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

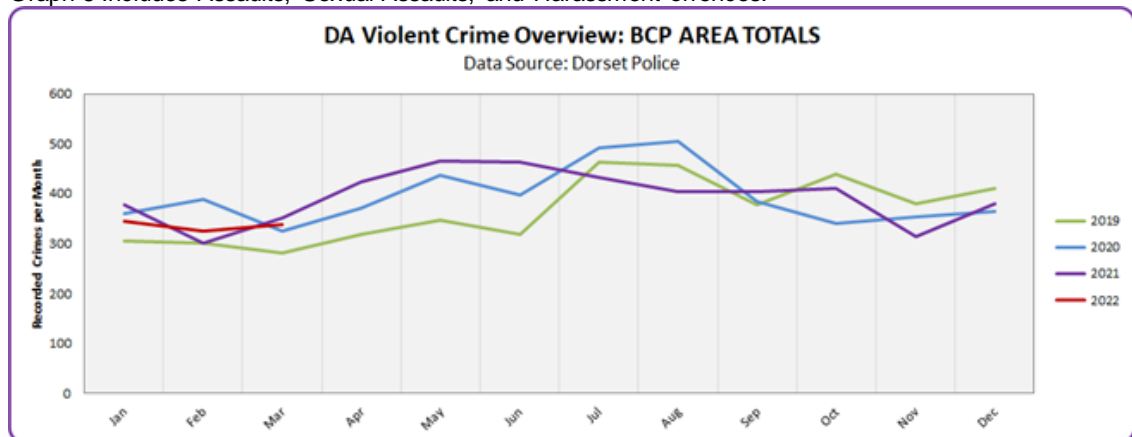
‘Coercive behaviour’ is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.’

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This definition includes so called 'Honour' based violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group."

- 7.3.2 Domestic Abuse Violent Crime includes Assault, Sexual Assault, and Harassment offences, within the context of Domestic Abuse.
- 7.3.3 Nationally, there was a 6% increase in domestic abuse-related crimes from 2019/20, although the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) cautions that domestic abuse is often not reported to the police and these statistics only provide part of the picture. They have suggested that this increase may be largely due to improvements in police recording practices and an increased willingness of victims to report domestic abuse to the police.
- 7.3.4 Data for BCP shows that police recorded domestic violence crimes began increasing before the pandemic began. Graph 5. Levels of domestic violence in 2020 were 5% (323 incidents) higher than in 2019 which is consistent with the national picture. However, the peak in domestic abuse is usually seen in the summer months, while in 2021, the peak was slightly earlier, in May and June.

Graph 5 Includes Assaults, Sexual Assaults, and Harassment offences:



- 7.3.6 Analysis of domestic abuse related violence against the person offences found that levels were stable in Bournemouth, with increases in violence without injury and harassment offset by reductions in violence with injury and assaults. However, both Poole and Christchurch experienced a 5% increase, and this included increases in violence with injury as well as assaults, violence without injury and harassment.
- 7.3.7 An even more pronounced peak can be seen in May 2021 for serious sexual offences taking place in the context of domestic violence, although overall levels are similar to 2019/20.
- 7.3.8 Data from Dorset Police for 2020/21 indicates that there were 6,006 domestic abuse related crimes reported to police. There were 2,004 (33%) arrests made in relation to these incidents, resulting in 543 (9% of total reports) charges.
- 7.3.9 Geographical analysis revealed that domestic abuse reported to the police appears to correlate with deprivation, Graph 6, although this may reflect contact with services who identify the abuse, or more densely populated areas.

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Graph 6 Locations: DA with female victim, all ages 16+, three-month period April to June 2021.
Inset: Index of Multiple Deprivation – most deprived areas (LSOAs) across BCP.



- 7.3.10 When victims aged 16 & 17 years were mapped separately, the profile was similar. Analysis for this victim age group showed that all the perpetrators were male and a disproportionate percentage of them were known to the Partnership Coordinating Group and SARA groups covering the priority areas in BCP, such as Bournemouth Gardens and Poole Bus Station. This may indicate that vulnerable young people are spending time in these public spaces and members of the public are witnessing the domestic abuse and reporting it. In only about 5% of recorded cases in the sample did the abuse appear to be the first occasion in which the young person came to partners' attention; in 40-45% of cases there were numerous prior involvements with partner agencies. The most common risk factors included:
- Poor mental health (17%);
 - Learning difficulties (13%);
 - Previous family trauma such as bereavement (8%);
 - Victim of previous abuse; pregnancy or having a child; DA at home; physical / emotional abuse by parents.
- 7.3.11 Victims over 65 years were more evenly distributed across the BCP conurbation. Further analysis found evidence of different types of domestic abuse, including:
- Long term coercive and controlling behaviours.
 - Violence associated with mental health and dementia appeared a major contributing factor, presenting a significant proportion of cases.
 - Exploitative relationships between younger females and frequently vulnerable, older males.
- 7.3.12 There are two Refuge facilities in BCP which are used to accommodate people from across the country, so demographic data is unlikely to directly reflect the community. The demographics of Refuge service users shows:
- Bournemouth – age profile – a significant majority (58%) aged 26-35. Only 12% of service users were younger than 18 or older than 45;

- Poole – age profile – again, a majority, albeit slightly smaller (38%) aged 26-35, with 15% of service users younger than 18 or older than 45
- Bournemouth – ethnicity – “any other white background,” at an average of between 20 and 21% of services users, appears higher than expected;
- Poole – ethnicity – 16% of service users “any other white background”, lower than Bournemouth but nonetheless higher than expected;
- Black / British and Black / African ethnicities also appear to have higher percentages than would be expected by comparison to population data for BCP – however, actual numbers are very small and therefore less statistically significant.

7.4 ‘Honour Based’ Abuse

- 7.4.1 The term 'Honour Based Abuse' relates to the offender/s interpretation of the motivation for their actions. It can be described as a collection of practices which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups in order to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such abuse occurs when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. There are no specific legislation or offences which cover 'honour-based abuse' or violence, cases will be prosecuted under the specific offence committed e.g., common assault, inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm, stalking and harassment, kidnap, rape, threats to kill and murder.
- 7.4.2 HBA and violence cuts across all cultures and communities. It affects people of all ages, but often begins early in the family home. Girls and women are particularly at risk; however, boys and men are also affected and may be at heightened risk if there are factors around disability, sexuality, and mental health.
- 7.4.3 It can be distinguished from other forms of abuse and violence, as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members. Women, men, and younger members of the family can all be involved in the abuse. Victims are more likely to be abused multiple times by multiple perpetrators.
- 7.4.4 Honour based abuse and violence is known to be under-reported and so increases are likely to be as a result of greater awareness and the full local picture is unknown. Thirteen (13) incidents and eight crimes, as shown in Table 2, identified as 'honour based' violence were reported to Dorset Police between 1 January and 18 August 2021.

Table 2

BCP	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Crimes	1	6	9	8
Incidents	1	6	15	13

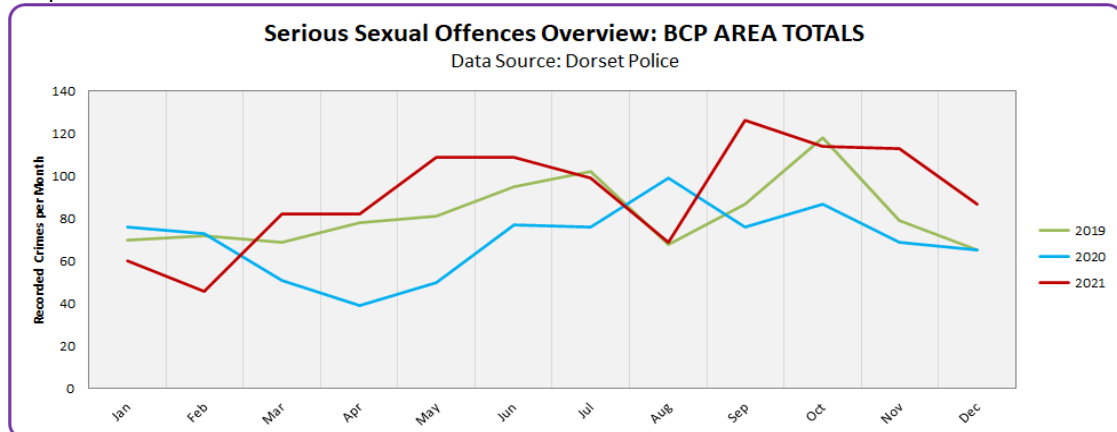
7.5 Sexual Violence

- 7.5.1 In 2020/21 there were 180 fewer sexual offences, 15%, in BCP compared with 2019/20, which was a greater reduction than the 9% reduction seen nationally.

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However, latest available data as of January 2022 shows that the level of total serious sexual offences has increased and was higher in the summer of 2021 than in 2019.

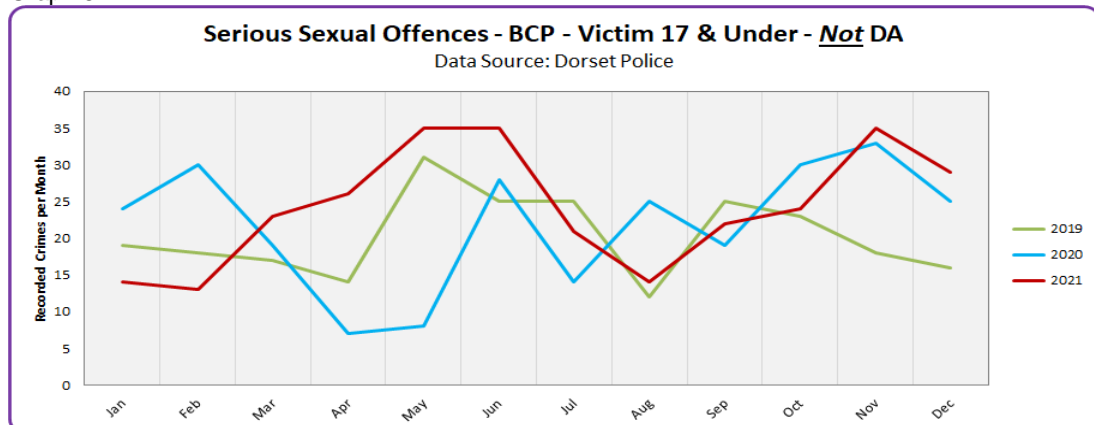
Graph 7



7.5.2 Regular Tactical Assessments through the summer highlighted ongoing aggressive and persistent sexual propositioning of female children and young people in public places, especially near Bournemouth beach. There is evidence that this is rarely reported, and then only in the most extreme cases, which could indicate that this behaviour has become normalised for both perpetrators and victims. The information provided to the group appeared to suggest that offenders may often be visitors to the town and part of all male groups.

7.5.3 Previous research has identified that 42% of victims of serious sexual offences pan-Dorset were aged 17 years or under, and 18% were 12 or under, meaning under 17s are particularly vulnerable to this type of offence. Recent data has shown that levels of sexual offences for victims who are 17 years and under has remained consistently high through 2021, when compared with previous years, whereas increases in offences with victims aged 18 and over was far more marked in the second half of the year.

Graph 8



7.5.4 This issue scored highly in the MoRiLE process (*Appendix A*).

7.5.5 There has been an increase nationally in reports of both drink and needle spiking recently (2021), which has received considerable attention in social and national media. In line with this, Dorset Police has seen an increase in reports though there is still no actual evidence of spiking to date in the BCP area (November 2021). A potential difficulty with achieving a positive test result is the speed at which it is possible for the test to be sought and conducted.

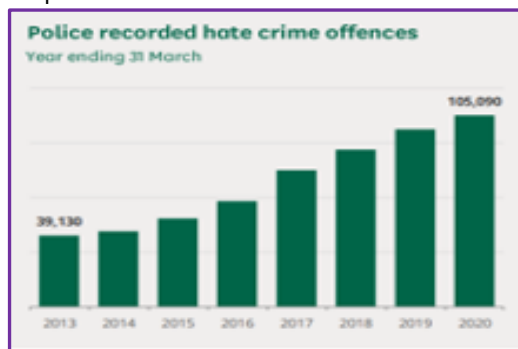
- 7.5.6 Bournemouth Town Watch (scheme for pubs and clubs) is supporting broader female safety issues by strengthening the level of schemes such as 'Ask for Angela' and 'Good Night Out', with initiatives providing welfare/women only rooms. The Safe Bus, which provides a safe place for people to go when they are vulnerable in Bournemouth town centre, usually is open from 10pm to 5am on Saturday nights from March to December, although the availability of staff during the pandemic has affected the operating times.
- 7.5.7 Bournemouth has continued to be active with their Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) programme and is now looking at potential change to a BCP-wide CAP with an initial focus on off-licences and universities (18-25 age group). The CAP actions have centred around working with schools to raise awareness of alcohol and drugs. A training and awareness programme was developed for small off-licences which was delivered in partnership with Tesco and supported by the police and BCP Council Licensing. During the Covid-19 pandemic the CAP maintained a flow of information to support businesses; now the focus is on re-establishing projects.
- 7.5.8 The pandemic has had a substantial impact on the night-time economy, with venues being required to close and introduce capacity restrictions. The Government's Covid19 measures are likely to continue to affect the night-time economy, so this is still being monitored closely. Although business is greatly improved there is a long way for many to pay off extra debt before reaching normal. There have also been staff shortages due to illness, having to isolate or businesses having to reduce staff, which could lead to increased safety risks as the night time economy adjusts.
- 7.5.9 Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the Bournemouth's Purple Flag submission for 2021 is showing no backward measures in the five core attributes and is on track to increase to the top level of excellent/outstanding in three areas.
- 7.5.10 Placemaking will be an important theme through 2022 with the recovery of the night-time economy. Placemaking looks at how we design our towns and cities and for the night-time economy how we do this for evening and night as well as day. Placemaking is a broad term to reflect every aspect of how we lead our lives in the community, not just how it looks. *"Placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community. Strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, placemaking refers to a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm in order to maximize shared value."* – Project for Public Spaces.

7.6 Hate Crime

- 7.6.1 Hate crime is a personal crime as it is motivated by characteristics that a person cannot change. Police recorded hate crime is recorded in three different ways:
- Racially & religiously aggravated crimes are specific Home Office classifications where the offence is motivated by hostility towards members of a racial or religious group.
 - Hate incidents are any incidents which may or may not constitute a crime, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hatred based upon their race, religious beliefs, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
 - Crimes that are flagged as hate crimes, because there is a perception or evidence that the victim has been targeted because of their race, religious beliefs, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

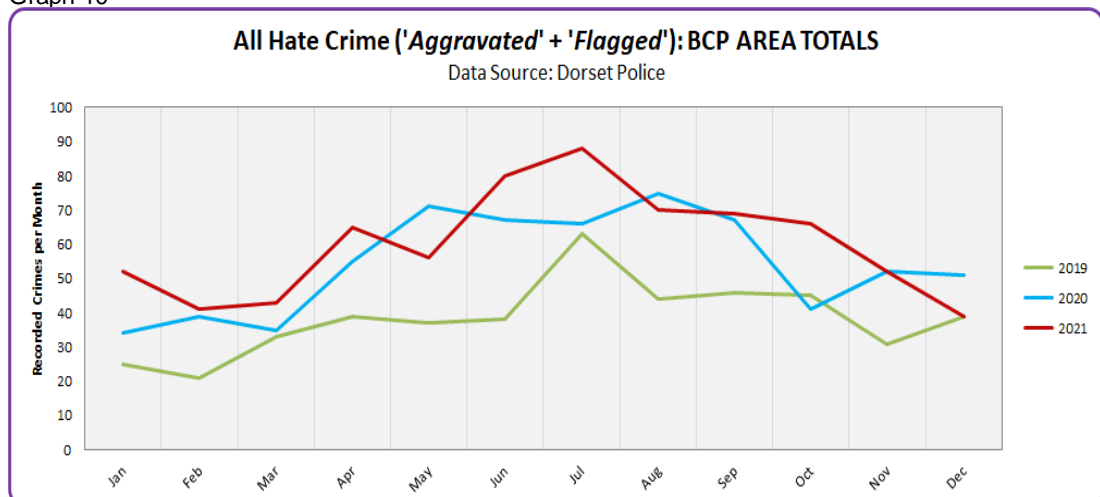
- 7.6.2 A recent [judgement](#) from the Court of Appeal, dated 20th December 2021, ruled that the College of Policing's guidance in place since 2014 that sets out the "perception-based" recording model for hate incidents is an unlawful incursion on citizens' freedom of expression. Essentially, the guidance was deemed unlawful because of its disproportionate interference with the freedom of expression protected by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The specific case being considered involved Police contact with an individual holding gender critical beliefs, who had expressed those beliefs on social media.
- 7.6.3 Although the judgement is very recent, its likely implication is that incidents which do not constitute a criminal offence, will need additional evidence, perhaps to the "reasonable suspicion" threshold, in order for an individual to be recorded as a "Suspect". As the Court put it: *'some additional safeguards should be put in place so that the incursion into freedom of expression is no more than is strictly necessary.'* This judgement may have an impact on the number of hate crimes recorded.
- 7.6.4 Nationally, hate crime has been increasing year-on-year since 2013, and this has been at least partly attributed to a greater awareness in reporting hate crimes and better recording practices. Race hate crime is the most commonly identified type of hate crime and this accounted for 72% of hate crime [nationally](#).

Graph 9



- 7.6.5 Similarly, the combined levels of racially & religiously aggravated crime and hate flagged crime increased by 41% (192) in BCP from 2019 to 2020, and continued to increase by 10% (63) from 2020 to 2021.

Graph 10



- 7.6.6 The largest proportion of hate flagged crime in 2020 took place in Bournemouth (65%, 194), followed by Poole (31%, 94) and only 4% (11) in Christchurch.

- 7.6.7 Analysis of a snapshot of the most recent crime is consistent with the above and gives an idea of the breakdown of the different types, Table 3.

Table 3

By Type July – Dec 2021	Bournemouth	Christchurch	Poole	TOTAL
Racially/Religiously Aggravated crime	129	18	48	195
Hate flagged - Race	56	5	26	87
Hate flagged - Religion/Belief	4	1	5	10
Hate flagged - Disability	20	0	16	36
Hate flagged - Sexual orientation	40	5	7	52
Hate flagged - Transgender	3	1	0	4
Total hate crime	252	30	102	384

- 7.6.8 Race appears to be by far the most dominant and significant type of Hate Crime recorded. However, we have strong evidence of significant under-reporting of hate crimes and incidents generally, but no firm conclusions of which types are more, and which less, under-reported. That means that whilst we can safely conclude that there are more victims in our community than the numbers suggested above, we can be less sure about the proportional split across disability, race, religious, homophobic, or transphobic hate crime.
- 7.6.9 In late 2019 a consultation session was held with members of a particularly impacted group within our community in BCP to discuss reasons for not reporting hate crime. Explanations provided included:
- Lack of understanding of what might constitute a crime,
 - The speed with which crimes and incidents occur, with the victim unable to note, for example, vehicle registration numbers,
 - Fear of harassment and threats escalating to serious assault if the victim gets their mobile phone out to call 999 at the time,
 - The commonality of experiencing hate crime, *"If I reported it every day, I'd get nothing else done."*
- 7.6.10 Despite the pandemic and reductions in many types of crime, there were increases in hate flagged crime from 2019 to 2020. The largest increases were seen in disability and race hate crimes (81%, 30 and 25%, 27 respectively). This is a substantial increase in disability hate crime and could potentially be due to some people being unable to wear masks due to their disability and others taking exception to it.

7.7 Criminal & Sexual Exploitation

- 7.7.1 Child criminal exploitation (CCE) occurs when vulnerable children are targeted to carry out criminal activities. It does not always involve physical contact and can occur using technology and is often a feature of drug-related crime, particularly county lines. Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse where a child or young person is exploited and given gifts, money, affection, or attention in return for performing sexual activities. Again, CSE does not always involve physical contact and can occur through the use of technology.
- 7.7.2 The pandemic has created challenges for child protection services and other front-line services, with changes to the services they provide and, in some cases, less face-

to-face appointments. Additionally, the pandemic has meant that children and young people have spent more time online, for schooling and socialising, and potentially unsupervised. [Research](#) has found that Covid-19 restrictions have hampered the ability of front-line services to risk-assess exploitation and has exacerbated the potential for county lines exploitation and other harm to remain hidden.

- 7.7.3 The September 2021 report into Child Exploitation (CSE) in the BCP area⁷ found that of the 74 young people suffering harm or at risk of harm, 55% (41) were for criminal exploitation, 23% (17) were for both criminal and sexual exploitation and 22% (16) were for sexual exploitation, Table 4.

Table 4

A breakdown of the number of Young People on the BCP Child Exploitation Profile on 31st August 2021

	Sexual	Sexual and Criminal	Criminal	Totals
Suffering harm	4	9	16	29
At Risk of Harm	12	8	25	45
Potential Concerns	4	10	14	28
	20	27	55	102

- 7.7.4 There is currently no breakdown for the children affected or at risk of criminal exploitation only and this is an area where more information is needed.
- 7.7.5 The report gave a breakdown of characteristics for the 33 young people affected by or at risk of harm from sexual exploitation. Most were female (29 of 33), and the peak ages were 15 and 17 years. While 23 were White British, the other 10 were various ethnicities. Nearly half were in Care (Looked after) and the remainder were known to Social Services, with as Child in Need or Child Protection plans. Further analysis is needed to be clear if young people were already 'Children in Need' before they were identified with exploitation concerns or if Child Exploitation was the primary reason for social care involvement.
- 7.7.6 The report identified some common themes, the two most dominant were sexual relations with older males and drug & alcohol misuse. Further themes included online communication, unexplained money or gifts, frequently going missing, sharing indecent images, and associating with others of concern.
- 7.7.7 In cases where sexual relationships with older males were mentioned, these ranged in age from slightly older teenagers to adult males in their thirties or forties. In at least four of the cases, multiple references to males of various ages are made. In this research, there was only one female perpetrator identified and she was found to have encouraged a young person to attend a situation in which she then had sex with two older males. Where names were mentioned, these were usually only first names.
- 7.7.8 While there was plenty of evidence of vulnerability, risk-taking and exploitation in various forms, very few links arose across all the different accounts. This leaves a

⁷ Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in the BCP Council Area, Management Information Team, BCP Council.

general result of many different victims, many different perpetrators, and many different physical and online locations

7.7.9 The report notes:

Both the presence of recurring themes and occurrences of young people taking part in harmful activities, mean that in the view of the analyst, there is sufficient information to conclude that Child Sexual Exploitation should continue to be acknowledged as a serious problem occurring in a variety of guises for young people in the BCP area.

- *It is clear robust communication between partners is already in existence for each individual of concern, for example through frequent Strategy Discussions convened between several partners. However, it is less clear how quickly the partnership members are informed of any apparent links between cases.*
- *Ongoing monthly analysis, co-ordinated with both CSC analysts and Police analysts would present several possibilities if sufficient resource for this could be applied:*
 - *Joint partnership sharing of names of individuals to reach a single agreed CE Profile list.*
 - *More immediate opportunities to identify themes, patterns, and links; potentially leading to more immediate action.*
 - *Opportunity for cross-referenced fact-checking across CSC records and Police records.*
 - *Quantitative analysis to back-up, confirm or disagree with worker 'hunches'.*
 - *Focussed, informed Exploitation risk reports shared with partners at regular meetings.*

7.7.10 This report was compiled using BCP Children's Social Care (CSC) data, and this has not been cross referenced with police data. While the screening documents are detailed, and show clear communication between partners, it is inevitable that there are other young people who are being harmed or are at risk that are not known.

7.7.11 Currently there are 17 active County Line networks operating in Dorset. Of these, 5 come from the London area, 1 from Merseyside, and 11 are based locally or links outside of Dorset have yet to be identified.

7.7.12 The largest local markets remain in Weymouth (5 lines), Bournemouth (11 lines) and Poole (2 lines).

7.7.13 10 of the lines have been linked or previously linked to violent behaviour/threats and/or possession of knives/weapons/firearms. 9 are linked to cuckooing addresses recently or previously. 9 are linked to the exploitation of children, either recently or previously, whereby children may be either local and/or from outside the force area.

7.7.14 The 2019/20 Strategic Assessment reported there were 6 County Lines operating across Dorset, with 4 in the conurbation, and 2 operating in Weymouth (November 2020). This is not necessarily indicative of an increasing trend (due to detection and recording).

7.8 Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

7.8.1 Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking (MSHT) is a complex crime covering all forms of slavery, trafficking, and exploitation. Trafficking includes recruiting, transporting, or harbouring a person with a view to exploiting them. Modern slavery crimes may involve a wide range of abuses or crimes and victims may not be aware that they are

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being trafficked or exploited and may have consented to elements of their exploitation. This can make it harder for the police, local authorities, or agencies to detect MSHT.

- 7.8.2 The most common form of exploitation in the UK is coerced criminality, although labour and sexual exploitation and domestic servitude are also commonly identified, but these types of crime are under reported. The [National Crime Agency](#) found that in 2020/21, restrictions associated with the pandemic limited certain activities and caused offenders to exploit people in other ways. They found lockdowns likely contributed to a rise in cases relating to county lines offending, with victims being more visible.
- 7.8.3 In 2020/21 there was a 26.9% (14 actual) increase in police recorded modern slavery crimes compared to 2019/20. The following tables show a crime breakdown and a victim age profile.

Table 5

Crime Types	19/20	20/21
Violence Against the Person	34	57
Hold person in slavery or servitude (recordable)	31	55
Require person to perform forced or compulsory labour (recordable)	0	1
Kidnap - common law (recordable)	1	0
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (Section 47)	0	1
Arrange or facilitate travel of another person with a view to exploitation (recordable)	1	0
Commit offence of kidnapping or false imprisonment with intention of committing human trafficking offence (recordable)	1	0
Non Crime	16	7
Reported Incident – NRM referral pending reasonable grounds decision	9	5
Reported Incident – NRM referral negative reasonable grounds decision	4	0
Reported incident – NRM referral – Positive reasonable Grounds/Police Referral – Outside England and Wales	2	0
Reported incident – NRM referral – transferred to another force in England and Wales	0	1
Reported incident – NRM referral - Duty to notify only	0	1
Reported incident – NRM referral – Negative reasonable Grounds – Outside England/Wales	1	0
Drug Offences	2	2
Possession with intent to Supply Class A drug	0	1
Possess with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class B - Cannabis (recordable)	0	1
Concerned in production by another of a controlled drug of Class B - cannabis resin (recordable)	1	0
Concerned in production of a controlled drug of Class B - cannabis (recordable)	1	0
Grand Total	52	66

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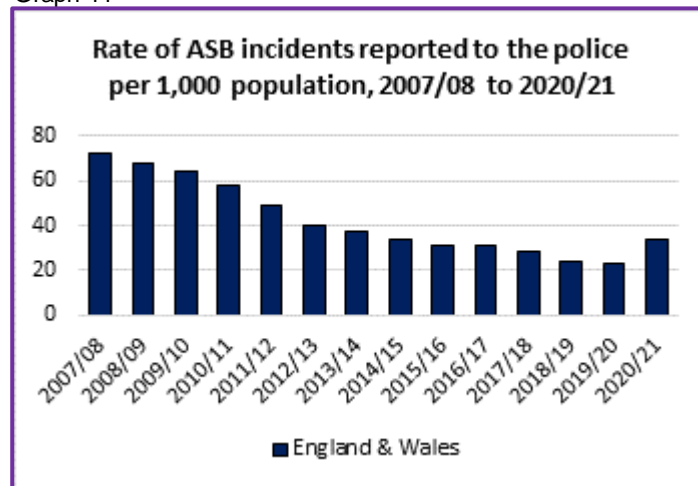
Victim Demographics	19/20	20/21
Female	10	17
Under 18	6	7
18 - 24	1	3
25 - 34	1	3
35 - 44	1	3
(blank)	1	1
Male	37	47
Under 18	22	26
18 - 24	5	9
25 - 34	3	8
35 - 44	5	2
45 - 54	1	2
55 +	1	
Unknown	5	2
Grand Total	52	66

Table 6

8 Anti-social Behaviour

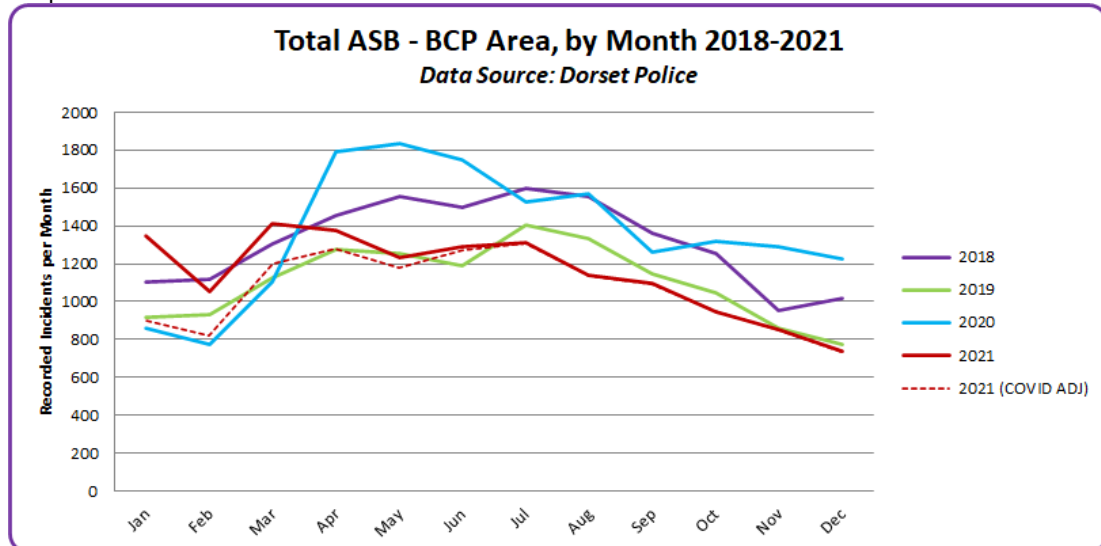
- 8.1 Anti-social behaviour (ASB) refers to a wide range of behaviours, from environmental issues such as litter or dog mess, through to personal nuisance such as noise. This category may also include criminal offences such as arson, criminal damage, and public order, depending on the severity of the incident and the effect on the person experiencing it. ASB datasets often have limitations, detail is often not recorded, and different types may be merged into one category making it harder to understand what behaviours are causing a problem. ASB is also a subjective issue; what one person finds to be a nuisance; another may not even notice. It is thought that the pandemic may have influenced the reporting of ASB in two ways; during the restrictions, some people may have been more aware of their neighbour's lifestyles particularly in relation to adherence to the rules around socialising, whilst simultaneously not wanting to add to the police workloads.
- 8.2. Data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales shows that the rate of ASB incidents reported to the police has been on a long-term downward trend for over a decade, Graph 11. However, it is unlikely that this is due to a genuine reduction in ASB, and more likely that some incidents previously recorded as ASB are now recorded as criminal offences, and also that people may be less likely to report ASB to the police. Instead, they may report to other local agencies, such as local authorities or housing associations, or may feel that the police will not be able to assist due to lack of capacity and just not report at all.

Graph 11



- 8.3 However, the CSEW found that there was a 48% increase in ASB incidents reported to the police nationally from 2019/20. Further analysis revealed that some police forces were including breaches of public health restrictions as ASB incidents and that this was the main driver for this increase.
- 8.4 A higher level of ASB was also recorded locally for 2020; there were 3,029 incidents, 23% more in 2020 than in 2019. There were particularly high levels of ASB during the Covid restriction period of April to June 2020.
- 8.5 To explore the effect of calls directly relating to COVID-19, police data was filtered, and these calls removed for 2021. This 'COVID Adjusted' (red hatched line in the graph 12) is the estimated underlying ASB figures for 2021 with coronavirus-related calls screened out. It is likely, however, that the "real underlying" figure lies in the range above that and below the solid '2021' line, some calls may have been made in any event, neighbour dispute noise / party / conflict etc complaints for example.

Graph 12



- 8.6 There were 15% (2,508) fewer ASB incidents reported to the police during 2021, in comparison with 2020 (using the Covid-adjusted figures).
- 8.7 The BCP Council Residents' Survey 2021 asked participants whether they found specific types of ASB to be a very or fairly big problem. The survey was conducted in two ways; via phone and online, which resulted in different proportions for each ASB type. However, the two biggest perceived issues for both surveys were rubbish/litter lying around and people using or dealing drugs. This is consistent with findings from the most recent [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) that gave a break-down of perceptions of ASB (2019). Nationally, the two biggest perceived ASB problems were rubbish/litter lying around (28%) and people using or dealing drugs (20%).
- 8.8 A snapshot analysis undertaken last year showed alcohol related incidents accounted for at least 7.5% of total antisocial behaviour across BCP (1,065 of 14,107 incidents over 12 months to June 2020). Whilst a conurbation-wide issue, the top five areas affected by alcohol related antisocial behaviour were: Central (Bournemouth town centre), Poole Town, Westbourne & West Cliff, Boscombe West, and East Cliff & Springbourne.
- 8.9 The night-time economy has an impact particularly in the Bournemouth town centre area, however, Poole Town, Boscombe West, and East Cliff & Springbourne also emerged with relatively high proportions of alcohol related antisocial behaviour. This is likely to be indicative of street drinking and other factors such as rough sleeping and youth related disorder (for example at Poole Bus Station).
- 8.10 A new alcohol related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was introduced on 1 July 2021. The PSPO covers most Wards within the BCP boundary. Requirements including to stop drinking alcohol and surrender any containers can be enforced by a police officer or authorised person if "*Consuming alcohol and behaving or likely to behave in a manner so as to cause nuisance, harassment, alarm or distress to another person.*"
- 8.11 In Spring 2021, as a result of the continued uncertainty of international travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the experience gained during the exceptional summer in 2020, decisions were taken to allocate funding to enhance core resource for an expected influx of visitors in 2021 and to support a multi-agency Summer Resilience plan. This provided:

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- Increased waste collections and the introduction of manual collections at peak times
 - Increased security and enforcement of bylaws and anti-social behaviour
 - Increased youth engagement outreach hours
 - Increased resourcing of the traffic control room to flow of the traffic network and enact temporary traffic restriction orders.
 - Increased number of civil enforcement officers to issue penalty charge notices and supervise the towing of illegally parked vehicles
 - Creation of two park and ride services in Kings Park and Poole Civic Centre
 - Three data analysts to continuously assess data for visitor influx including public transport usage figures, road network data, hotel booking data and car park capacity.
 - Implementation of a 'negative behaviours' communications campaign
 - Increased communications resource to live message social media platforms and engage with local and national media.
 - Implementation of new CCTV cameras in key locations to support water safety and public safety and additional staffing to support the monitoring of cameras in peak times.
 - Additional staffing to support public toilet and open spaces cleansing.
- 8.11.1 In order to support by law enforcement and manage the safety of residents and visitors to the seafronts, a security contractor supported the BCP Council teams. Out of peak season this coverage ran from 8am-2am seven days a week with coverage in three key locations: Boscombe Pier and surrounding area, Sandbanks and Pier Approach to include Bournemouth West and Bournemouth East. In peak season presence increased in officer numbers as well as moving to 24/7 coverage.
- 8.11.2 The security provider detailed 1,701 reports of incidents, with distinct differences between daytime and evening issues. The focus for the daytime for the provider was pier jumping enforcement, cliff incursions and unpermitted dogs on beaches. The focus for the evening, where core BCP resource was reduced, was open fires, anti-social behaviour, and illegal camping on beaches.
- 8.11.3 The highest consistent number of behaviours addressed were fires on beaches, with the highest number of incidents (200) seen in June. Breaches of the bylaw around camping on beaches were most prevalent in July. The process around this breach requires formal warning, and in the majority of cases this has seen people leave the beach and limited incidents of displacement. Prosecution action for breach of illegal camping bylaws has been pursued in 9 cases.
- 8.12 There are times when ASB related to the student community in the BCP area increases, such as when students start their course, complete exams, and end of term, when parties are common in areas of high student housing particularly in Winton and Charminster. This leads to increased complaints of noise and anti-social behaviour. Noise and ASB Legislation is used where necessary to help ensure regular disturbances do not continue from the same location and Bournemouth University employ Community Wardens who engage with students and permanent residents to help educate on responsibilities and reporting routes.

9 Enforcement

9.1 Community Protection Notices

- 9.1.1 The Community Protection Notice (CPN) can be used to deal with ongoing problems or nuisances which are having a detrimental effect on the community's quality of life by targeting those responsible. Initially, a Community Protection Warning (CPW) must be issued to make the individual aware their behaviour is not acceptable and what behaviour is required to stop and by when. If there is evidence that they are not adhering to the warning, then a CPN can be issued.
- 9.1.2 From the data it appears the CPWs are having the desired effect to prevent antisocial behaviour; of 70 CPWs issued between January and August 2021, only 5 led to a CPN. However, other actions and tools used may have been used alongside the CPW to instigate a change in behaviour. If the behaviour of an individual escalates beyond CPW or CPN, in some instances a Civil Injunction may be applied for.
- 9.1.3 Half of the CPW letters (35) were regarding street ASB (aggressive begging, street drinking or intimidating behaviour causing harassment, alarm or distress).
- 9.1.4 Fifteen CPWs were issued to eleven separate hotels regarding child sexual exploitation. Evidence shows that hotels and B&Bs are often used as locations to meet, groom and abuse children. Hotel Watch is a joint initiative between Dorset Police and the hotel community; more information is available within Dorset Police's CSE advice page for hotels and B&Bs: www.dorset.police.uk/help-advice-crime-prevention/abuse-exploitation-neglect/cse/cse-advice-for-hotels-and-bbs/
- 9.1.5 There were a further three relating to exploitation and two relating to County Lines activity, although no further detail was available.

9.2 Civil Injunctions

- 9.2.1 The injunction under Part 1 of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 is a civil power to deal with antisocial individuals. The local authority ASB team follow an escalation process and injunctions are only considered when other informal approaches (including CPWs & CPNs) have not worked to prevent the behaviour.
- 9.2.2 During 2021 (to August), there have been eight civil injunctions in place or in the process of being sought. The types of prohibitions/behaviours where an injunction has been granted include:
- Exclusion zone due to causing ASB in a specific location e.g., shopping centre;
 - Non-association with named individuals;
 - No contact with named persons (for example a victim);
 - County lines: not to be in possession of an open drinking vessel, or drugs or drugs paraphernalia, not to be in possession of more than one mobile phone or sim.

9.3 Closure Notices and Orders

- 9.3.1 Closure Notices and Orders are only used as a means of last resort when other actions have failed to address issues of nuisance antisocial behaviour and disorder relating to a specific premise.
- 9.3.2 The Closure Notice issued, and Closure Orders applied for by the local authority ASB team and granted by the Courts over the last year were for serious disorderly

behaviours relating to drug taking and dealing. January to August 2021 there were six such Closures.

9.4 Community Consequences scheme

- 9.4.1 Many incidents of antisocial behaviour and public nuisance involve young persons and it is important that antisocial behaviour involving young persons is addressed before the level of unacceptable behaviour is considered criminal. Community Consequences is a progressive 3-stage partnership scheme to tackle antisocial behaviour, whilst also highlighting to parents and guardians the impact on the whole-community.
- 9.4.2 The stages can be summarised as follows:
- C1 - A letter is sent to the parents/guardians highlighting concerns. If there are no further incidents in the next six months, the record is automatically deleted. However, if a second incident occurs within that six-month period, then it moves to C2.
 - C2 - Personal visit to the home will be made by a member of the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and Council ASB team to outline concerns, offer support and guidance in preventing further behaviour.
 - C3 – A letter from the Neighbourhood Policing Team Sergeant outlining the fact that this is the third incident, and the behaviour has not changed and is still having an impact on the community. At this stage other partners such as Social Services, Education, and Housing Landlords will be notified of concerns and there will be an invitation to an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) Clinic.
- 9.4.3 Between 1 April and 30 September 2021 the local authority ASB team have recorded forty-five cases at C1 stage, eight at C2, and two ABCs are being explored.

10 Issues Emerging From the MoRiLE

- 10.1 The following issues that fall within the direct remit of the Community Safety Partnership scored “very high” (RED) or “medium high” (AMBER) in the MoRiLE methodology:

Public Place Violence in Bmth town centre Night Time Economy
Possession of Weapons - "Youth Knife Crime"
Domestic Abuse Violent Crime
Drug Related Deaths
Serious Sexual Offences - 'Stranger' Assaults
Serious Sexual Offences - Victim 17 and under
Child Sexual Exploitation
Alcohol Related Violence / Alcohol Related Assaults
County Lines / Criminal Exploitation
Fraud – Bank; Credit Card; Consumer; Retail
ASB - Environmental and Total
Possessions of Weapons
ASB - Nuisance and Personal
Residential Burglary
Robbery
Criminal Damage

Appendix A – MoRiLE, High Level View

The tools developed by the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) programme provide an opportunity to standardise and strengthen the approach to prioritisation amongst Community Safety Partnerships, using a robust and accredited framework that has been tried and tested by the law enforcement community.

The programme developed a process for all law enforcement agencies that provides a standardised approach and common language for understanding risk, involving more than 300 UK and international agencies. In October 2016, MoRiLE became a nationally accredited way of working for all Police forces and other law enforcement agencies such as the National Crime Agency, to inform their Strategic Assessments. Recognising the value that this standardised approach could offer to CSPs, a partnership strand was added to the national programme in 2016.

There are currently two MoRiLE matrices in wide-scale use, thematic and tactical, as well as a number of additional MoRiLE products at varying stages of development, which include organisational and operational models. It is the thematic level matrix that is relevant to the CSP production of annual Strategic Assessments. This will be the third year that the core methodology of the CSP Strategic Assessment covering the BCP geographical area will be the partnership thematic MoRiLE.

The key benefits of the MoRiLE process are:

- ☞ A transparent and informed decision-making process, that is multi-agency and secures buy-in from partners from an early stage;
- ☞ Assessment of a range of different thematic areas and issues alongside each other;
- ☞ Assessment of capability and capacity in relation to each thematic area;
- ☞ Avoidance of bias in risk assessment;
- ☞ Use of a common language in relation to threat, risk, and harm;
- ☞ A clear process that is easy to use and understand.

A key point of significance is that there is not a direct mapping from MoRiLE ranking to partnership priority. CSP Priority Themes will differ due to:

Significantly, a feature / possible weakness of the MoRiLE process is that it is easy to overlook the additional impact of the concentration – in time, in place, and in demographics - of some risks and threats. For example - Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents may score relatively low, partly due to 'low volumes' (acknowledging very significant under-reporting), but also due to risk being statistically spread throughout the population, whilst in reality risk is concentrated in certain groups defined by vulnerability, ethnicity, faith, gender identity, or where and when individuals work, live, or travel.

Some thematic areas already have a specific partnership organisation concentrating on the issue. For example, Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking - the Dorset Anti-Slavery Partnership leads; and Drug Related Deaths – Public Health Dorset.

We follow recommended best practice, and break issues down wherever possible for application of the MoRiLE. This means that we may subsequently group issues to prioritise them in a logical manner. Thus 'Youth Knife Crime' may need to be considered in alignment with wider issues such as County Lines.

Output from the MoRiLE may not fully recognise problems with data, lack of intelligence, and known under-reporting. Home Office multipliers⁸ attempt to estimate the degree of under-reporting of violence in our communities – these vary from about 1:1 for the most serious

⁸ "The economic and social costs of crime", 2nd Edition Research Report 99, Home Office July 2018.

violence (homicide and serious wounding), meaning that there is negligible under recording of this type of crime; through to 3.4:1 for Rape (in other words, best available estimates suggest that less than 30% of rapes are reported to Police), 16.5:1 for other Sexual Offences . . . and 53.6:1 for Fraud!

There may, in addition, be slightly lower rated thematic issues where the CSP is nonetheless well positioned as a result of partnership coordination to undertake initiatives.

Themes that impact on the way people feel about the area they live in and may be detrimental to community cohesion, do not necessarily score highly through the MoRiLE process. In Section 3.2, *Methodology*, above, we remarked that this 2022/23 *Strategic Assessment* has been produced with a broader range of inputs than was possible in previous years - and this satisfactorily addresses this potential issue.

The nuts and bolts – Inputs:

Each individual threat / harm is assigned a value in each of the following categories:

1. IMPACT (HARM):

- a. Physical
- b. Psychological
- c. Financial
- d. Community
- e. Public Expectation
- f. Environmental

2. LIKELIHOOD:

- a. Frequency
- b. Volume
- c. Trend
- d. Forecast

3. CONFIDENCE:

- a. Intelligence Assessment
- b. Thematic Area Knowledge

4. ORGANISATIONAL POSITION:

- a. Reputation & Politics
- b. Economic Cost
- c. Capacity
- d. Capability.

Appendix B – Register of Knowledge Gaps

- ☞ Ambulance Data
- ☞ Profile of youth offending – *At the time of Strategic Assessment publication (April 2022) – Dorset Combined Youth Justice service are in the process of producing profile information for the Youth Justice Plan which will be available late spring.*
- ☞ Data from probation service, including Community Payback and MAPPA
- ☞ Child Exploitation
- ☞ Domestic abuse data from victim support services

Appendix C – List of Contributors

Name	Role	Primary Section(s) Informed
BCP Council		
Stuart Best	Waste and Cleansing Manager - Environment	Antisocial Behaviour
George Constantin	Seasonal Response Analyst - Communities	Beachfront data
James Fenby	Senior Information Management Officer	Research into Child Exploitation
Luke Gilbert	CSAS Senior Officer	CSAS engagements
Jo Hansell	Senior Research Officer - Policy & Research	Visitor surveys and demographics
Julia Howlett	ASB Manager	ASB interventions and enforcement
Nickie Khosravi	Destination Development Officer	Visitor data and economic impact
Matthew King	Environmental Protection Manager	Education, ASB interventions and enforcement
Francesca Kingsbury	CSAS Senior Officer	CSAS engagements
Rina Mistry	Team Manager - Business & Data, Children & Young People	NEET young people, School Exclusion and Truancy
Policy & Research team with special mention to Jayne Dale	Policy & Research team	BCP area contextual information
Sophie Sajic	Head of Street Based Response - Communities	Seasonal response, bylaw review, Cleaner Greener Safer, BIDs - crime reduction partnership
Sarah Sanford	Contracts Officer, Drug & Alcohol Commissioning Team (DACT)	Treatment services (substance misuse/abuse)
Jon Shipp	Night-Time Economy Co-ordinator	Night-time economy schemes/context
Lee Tharme	ASB Officer	Op Luscombe
Andy Williams	Head of Safer Communities	Additional Needs / Risk Factors
Dorset Police		
David Weldon	Strategic Analyst	Knife Crime, VAWG, Modern Slavery, County Lines, Missing Persons, DA arrests/charges data
Nick Wyer	Drug Related Death Coordinator	Substance Misuse
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service		
Stuart Gillion		DWFRS structure, resources, identified challenges.
St Mungo's		
Andrew Teale	Street Outreach Service	Homeless
Dorset Council		
Natasha Morris	Senior Public Health Analyst	JSNA

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Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Community Safety Strategy 2022 -2025



**DORSET
POLICE**



Foreword

We take great pleasure in presenting this three-year strategy for reducing crime and increasing safety in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP).

The council, police, health services, fire and rescue services, and probation services share a collective responsibility to understand the causes and nature of crime, anti-social behaviour, and substance misuse. Together these agencies work with our communities and voluntary-sector agencies to identify community safety priorities for BCP and put plans in place to address them.

All community safety partners, and all Council departments are responsible for making sure the strategy and action plans are delivered. In addition, this strategy supports other strategies and plans developed in other partnerships, such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, Adults and Children Safeguarding Boards, and other pan-Dorset strategic partnerships.

We would like to encourage partners to share this strategy and subsequent annual plans widely within their organisations and among user groups, so we may increase knowledge and understanding of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the collaborative approach to increasing safety and reducing crime.

There was a 13% reduction in police recorded crime in BCP from 2019/20 which is consistent with the 13% reduction nationally (excluding fraud and computer misuse offences). However, crime levels across the country have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. The largest reductions in crimes were between April and June 2020, corresponding with the introduction of the first national restrictions beginning at the end of March 2020. The impact of the pandemic continues to impact on people's freedom, such as their ability to travel internationally, and their behaviour and it is not possible to predict when these restrictions will no longer be in place.

We understand the fight to improve safety within our communities is an ongoing challenge, and we are grateful for the participation of all our partners across all sectors. The commitment from partners to work with our residents and wider communities is clear and we appreciate and value their involvement.

There are known risk factors, including domestic abuse and violence, poor mental health and substance misuse that often result in our young people and adults becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. These factors will continue to put the achievements we will make under this strategy at risk. So, it is important that we continue to raise awareness among agencies and with communities of things we can do to reduce crime and disorder. These include taking preventative measures to safeguard those who are vulnerable, and at the same time work to eradicate risks by taking proportionate enforcement activity against those who are intent on committing crime and harm in our communities.

Reducing crime and disorder, and protecting vulnerable people are extremely important factors in improving the lives of BCP residents. By working together, the Partnership has already achieved many successes, including during the harshest points of the coronavirus pandemic. We are proud of these achievements, but we know there is more to be done.

We are committed to finding new ways of working to increase our effectiveness and to improve our outcomes through work with partners, local residents, visitors and businesses to make BCP even safer.

Cllr Bobbie Dove - BCP Council Cabinet Member for Community Safety & CSP Vice Chair

Chief Superintendent Mark Callaghan - BCP Local Police Area and CSP Chair

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Introduction

This strategy reflects on the achievements since the inception of BCP Community Safety Partnership in 2019. It also identifies current and future priorities and potential challenges and outlines the approach we will take over the next three years to increase safety and reduce crime and disorder in BCP.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by section 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships to develop Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategies every three years. Community Safety Partnerships are also required to develop annual Partnership Plans, setting out what actions partner agencies will take, individually and collectively, to respond to the priorities agreed by the Partnership.

The BCP Community Safety Partnership is the statutory 'community safety partnership' for the local authority area of Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole. It brings together the key statutory public bodies with community, voluntary and private sector partners for the purpose of reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic and sexual abuse/violence, substance misuse and reoffending in BCP. This is in line with the council's commitment in the Corporate Strategy to work with partners to deliver results together.

Our vision is **to make Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole a safer and healthier place where communities and businesses thrive and where residents and visitors feel safe and welcomed**, by working together to increase safety in the community, to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, and substance misuse and to manage those who commit offences to prevent them from reoffending.

Our mission is **to provide clear strategic vision and leadership in improving safety in the conurbation for residents, businesses, and visitors**. We will work to address crime and anti-social behaviour, using data, insight, and a combination of communication, engagement, prevention, early intervention, and enforcement, and will work closely with the community to provide support to victims, especially those who are vulnerable.

Membership of the Community Safety Partnership consists of representation from a wide range of stakeholders and organisations including:

- BCP Council
- Dorset Police – BCP Local Policing Area
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services (DWFRS)
- Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
- Voluntary Sector

In 2022, subject to the passing of new legislation, Integrated Care System (ICS) will be rolled out nationally, after Dorset became one of England's first pilot ICSs in 2018.

This will incorporate the CCG and expand the range of partners working with the CSP and a strategic approach to commissioning services focusing on the wider factors that impact on safety, health, and wellbeing. With a strong and successful partnerships already in Dorset, the ICS will forge even stronger partnerships between communities, NHS services, local councils, and the voluntary sector to deliver necessary services, improve care and tackle health inequalities across the county.

BCP Council has made a clear commitment to the Cleaner, Greener, Safer initiative, which, among other outcomes, seeks to enhance community safety and reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The Council's Big Plan and Corporate Strategy also set out a clear vision and priorities aimed at making BCP one of the best coastal places in the world to live, work, invest, and play.

Alongside complementary priorities of our statutory partners, this strategy takes account of Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 2029, particularly in relation to the PCC's commitments to cut crime and anti-social behaviour, to fight violent crime and high harm, and to put victims and communities first.

Strategic Principles

The Community Safety Partnership will work towards achieving its vision in line with the following strategic principles:



Enhancing knowledge and understanding of crime and anti-social behaviour through better sharing of information, so we may address the human, social and environmental factors that drive them, the interventions likely to have positive impact, and the ways we may work with communities to prevent and combat them.



Collaborating across agency boundaries to plan, commission and deliver jointly, and to improve our efficiencies for the benefits of BCP communities, with a clear focus on crime prevention, reduction of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system, and reduction of repeat and persistent offending.



Ensuring victims and communities are central to the development, commissioning, and delivery of services, including in early education settings, and where there are complex and additional needs such as familial and personal substance misuse, poor mental health, special educational needs, and protected characteristics



Committed to developing a partnership that embraces equality and inclusivity



Operating a robust performance management framework to measure what works and how to be more effective

We recognise that successful delivery of this Strategy depends on robust and effective partnership working. The Strategy will be supported by annual multi-agency Partnership Plans aligned to a robust performance framework so impact can be

measured. Performance will be reported to the CSP Executive Board, which meets quarterly.

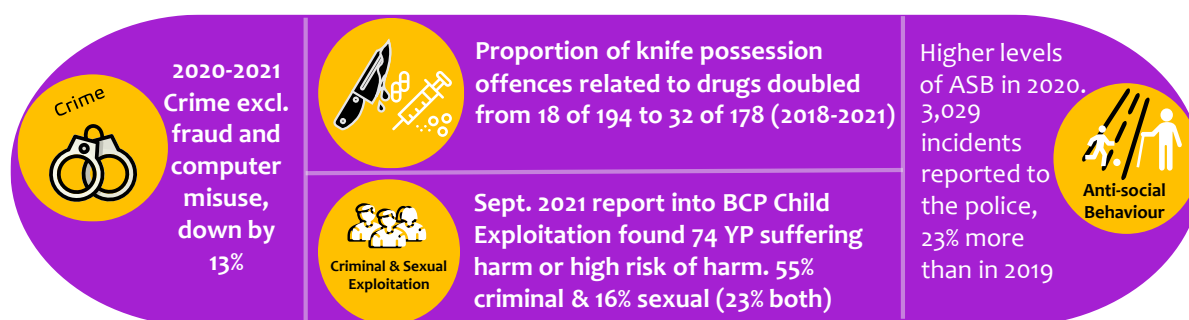
The Community Safety Strategic Assessment

Each year, the BCP Community Safety Partnership conducts a strategic assessment of local crime and disorder, as required by the [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#) and the [Crime and Disorder \(Formulation and Implementation of Strategy\) Regulations 2011](#).

The strategic assessment considers the following data and information:

- Volumes and trends of local crime and antisocial behaviour
- Offending and re-offending data
- Emerging issues of national concern
- Priorities of key partners, including Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner's

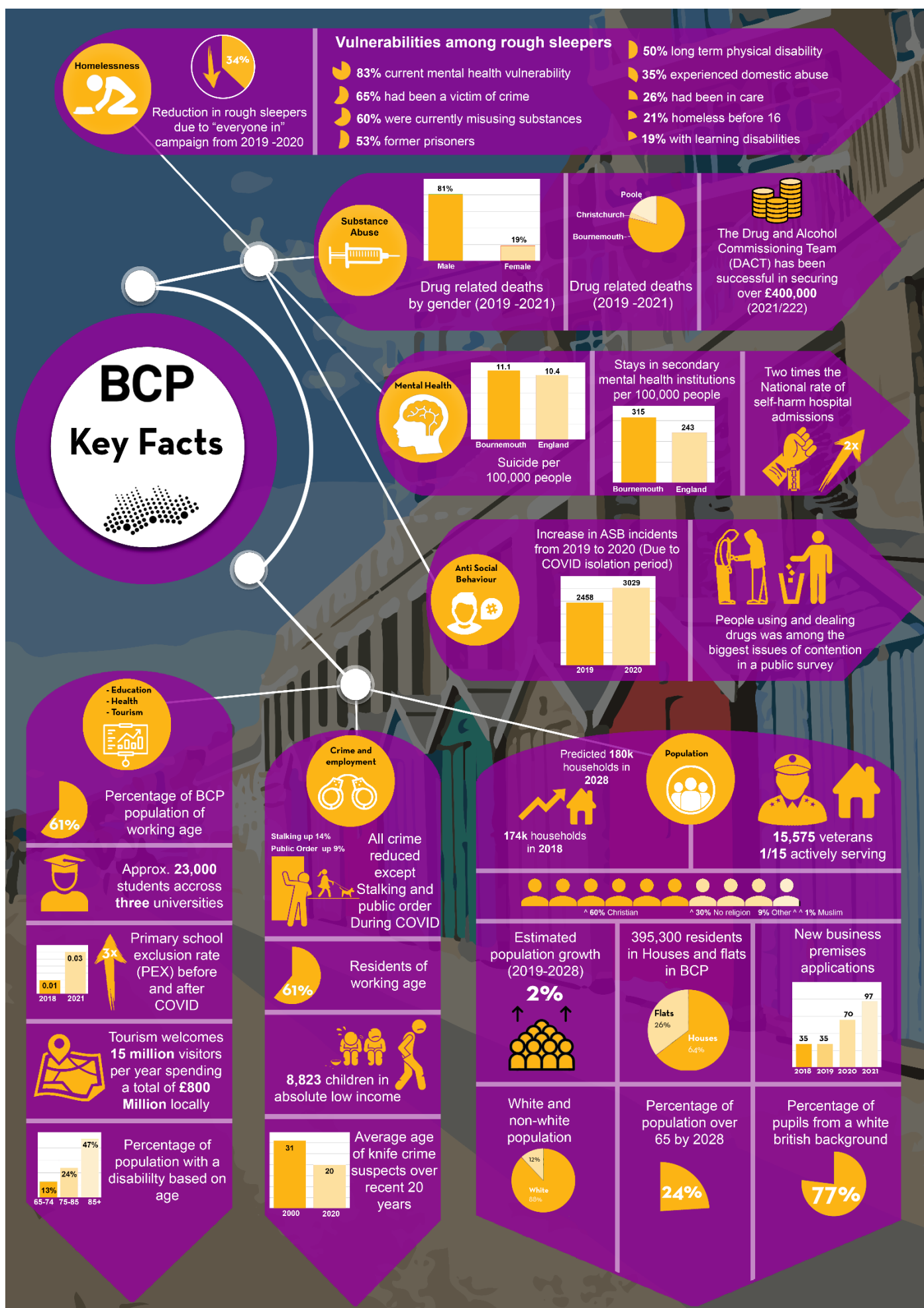
The Strategic Assessment was approved in January 2022 and was based on analysing a range of information and data from the Council, Police, Health, Probation and Fire services, plus other local, regional, and national information. The Strategic Assessment identified the prevalence, levels and types of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, and substance misuse across BCP as well as any trends or areas of repeat demand.



The assessment found that crime levels across the country have been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns and social restrictions. The largest reductions in crimes were between April and June 2020, corresponding with the first national lockdown beginning at the end of March 2020. This lower level of crime is anticipated to gradually return to pre-pandemic levels as restrictions ease and people's behaviours go back to normal.

While there have been reductions in most types of crime, this overall reduction obscures the trends of individual crime types, in smaller geographical areas, at different times and where there are different risks. Different members of our community do not share an "equality of risk" to the threats underlying the recommended priorities. While the majority of crime types reduced in BCP compared with 2019/20, some types of crime saw an increase in [BCP](#). Most notably increases were seen in stalking and harassment (14%, 416), and public order offences (9%, 178).

Data from Hospital Emergency Departments suggests that, after "body part", knives are the single most frequent type of weapon responsible for non-accidental injury.



The Telephone Crime Survey for England and Wales found that the reductions in crime were offset by increases in fraud and computer misuse offences, with no overall change in the level of crime reported to the survey. This displacement reflects the changing opportunities for criminal behaviour during the pandemic, some of which will continue for some time.

The Strategic Assessment identified that overall, since 2019/20, violence was showing a reduction across the BCP area, driven by a reduction in alcohol-related violence which is almost certainly a result of restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, it is likely that levels of alcohol-related violence will increase – data available for 2021 indicate this to be the case.

Police reports suggested that the three main areas where violence is increasing are among young people, with an increase in public-place knife-related offences, violence in the drug using/dealing community, and violence in the night-time economy, linked to drug use.

Recorded sexual offences significantly reduced in 2020/21, a likely temporary trend linked to the restrictions in the night-time economy. However, data for 2021/22 strongly indicates increases beyond the levels recorded in 2019. Victims of sexual offences are disproportionately young females under 17 years. Meanwhile, reported domestic violence increased by 5% in Poole and Christchurch.

Links have also been found between knife crime and drugs, both nationally and in local data. There is evidence to suggest that young people are disproportionately the victims of robbery, and that there could be a concerning increase in young people perpetrating this crime.

The pandemic created additional challenges for child protection services and other front-line services, with changes to the services they provide and, in some cases, less face-to-face appointments. Additionally, the pandemic has meant that children and young people have spent more time online, for schooling and socialising, and potentially unsupervised. [Research](#) has found that Covid-19 restrictions have hampered the ability of front-line services to risk-assess exploitation and has exacerbated the potential for County Lines exploitation and other harm to remain hidden.

There were high levels of reported ASB during 2020 and 2021 compared with 2019, due to two consecutive factors resulting from the pandemic:

- a) During periods of control measures and restrictions, significant numbers of ASB incidents directly linked to breaches of restrictions were logged;
- b) The easing of restrictions, whilst travel overseas restrictions remained, resulted in larger number of people visiting the area.

Data analysis undertaken to filter out ASB incidents in 2021 directly associated with Covid shows the underlying levels of ASB similar to 2019. People using or dealing drugs was one of the types of ASB thought to be a very or fairly big problem by respondents to the Resident's Survey, along with rubbish and litter. This could indicate that drug issues are increasing in the area.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on society; there have been unprecedented changes to healthcare systems, economic performance, mental wellbeing, social interactions, and mobility in response to both the virus and attempts to control it. The restrictions imposed significantly limited physical interactions, particularly during, but not restricted to lockdown periods accelerating the adoption of working from home practices and shifting to online platforms for day-to-day needs. These changes created fewer opportunities for criminals in public areas and more opportunities online. Many services have also been delivering interventions by phone and video-conferencing technology, and more research is needed to understand more about the impacts of this change and whether it has increased the vulnerability of some BCP residents.

Popular press and tourism-related journalists ascribe a visible “boom” in visitor numbers to UK seaside resorts due to the increased complexity and restrictions involved in international travel. It is likely that this trend will continue into 2022, maintaining employment in the sector, but putting more demand on local services including street cleansing, parks and greenspace maintenance, medical services, and community safety.

As the country settles into living with COVID, the Partnership will strive to maintain the gains achieved from improved collaboration across agency boundaries and to work with the Council’s commitment to a cleaner, greener, safer BCP. We agree that in order to make BCP one of the best coastal places in the world to live, work, invest, and play, we must improve reduce crime and disorder and prevent levels to escalate to that of some other regions in the UK.

The introduction of the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) and proposed [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill](#) gives greater focus on violence, both within and outside the home, and on our collective ability to effectively safeguard and protect those within our communities who are vulnerable to these and other forms of harm.

Strategic Priorities for 2022 - 2025

Based on the findings from the strategic assessment, the following priorities have been identified as the primary areas of focus for the Partnership throughout the life of this strategy:

1. Tackle violent crime in all its forms
2. Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks
3. Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse

The Partnership Plans underpinning this strategy will be reviewed each year as part of the annual strategic assessment process and will reflect any changes in emphasis

and trends in relation to crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, and reoffending.

Achievements

This is the first Community Safety Strategy developed by BCP Community Safety Partnership since it was formed in 2019. In early 2020, the COVID-19 coronavirus virus had been detected in the UK and, by March that year, the UK Government introduced restrictions across the country to combat the spread of the virus.

All agencies involved in the CSP had been affected by the coronavirus, with impact on staffing and working arrangements. However, partners remained committed to keeping BCP communities safe and rallied together to develop and deliver an agile COVID response. The executive board of the Partnership met frequently to oversee the implementation of plans designed to maintain safety, not only in relation to the coronavirus, but also in relation to other challenging demands around crime and safety, anti-social behaviour, and domestic abuse.

A Domestic Abuse COVID-19 Response Plan was implemented in 2020, which included a dedicated domestic abuse helpline, increase in outreach support, a pan-Dorset communications campaign, COVID-secure drop-in, and other measures. A new Domestic Abuse Strategy was also developed and was signed off by the CSP Executive Board in 2021.

The Partnership also developed problem-solving groups to focus on key locations where there were concerns about crime and disorder. Weekly meetings were held during the heights of the pandemic, ensuring that timely and robust actions were taken. These groups meetings are on-going and are developing enforcement and engagement tactics to tackle crime and disorder in specific areas as soon as evidence emerges.

In response to multi-agency concerns about organised child exploitation in the BCP area, additional management oversight was established to provide overview and direction in our response. Using learning from identified cases, the Partnership has developed new and additional processes to safeguard our young people, including training to relevant professionals on how to identify exploitation and report concerns. BCP Council now have a Complex Safeguarding Team to work with children suffering significant harm from exploitation. The team is made up of social workers, family support workers and intervention workers, to support and provide on-going assessment of children and young people who are being criminally or sexually exploited.

In 2020 Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (YJS) implemented the Trauma Recovery Model. The YJS is a multi-disciplinary partnership which has used the expertise of its health professionals to help embed trauma-informed practice in its work. The YJS Speech and Language Therapists complete specialist assessments of young people in the justice system, identifying communication needs in 80% of this

group. The combination of communication assessments and trauma-informed practice enables an individualised response plan for each child.

BCP Police have implemented a dedicated Missing Persons team to investigate cases of vulnerable adults and children who go missing. Some of the children and young people who go missing have been targeted for exploitation by adults from outside of the BCP area, and BCP police work with other police forces to identify perpetrators as well as ensuring those vulnerable children and young people are returned home safely and supported by BCP Council services.

During 2020 – 21, the police worked with CSP partners to run several successful operations to tackle serious violent crime in Bournemouth Lower Gardens involving young people and to educate local hotels in spotting signs of child exploitation. The Council's Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) Officers worked with police officers to tackle aggressive begging across BCP. A police operation named *Operation Vigilant*, involving specially trained and dedicated officers, was launched in the summer of 2021 to respond to increased reports of sexual offences in Bournemouth and Weymouth town centres. The operation used a combination of uniformed and plain-clothed officers, to identify individuals who may be displaying signs of unacceptable behaviour, such as sexual harassment, inappropriate touching, and loitering.

Working with BCP Council, the police established a Multi-Agency Communications Centre (MACC) to manage the higher demand during the summer months and allow for all agencies to communicate effectively and react swiftly to reports of crime or anti-social behaviour. The MACC involved officers conducting high-visibility patrols, engaging with members of the public and intervening to disrupt early signs of disorder, such as those linked to social drinking in known hotspots. The MACC received positive comments following a visit by the UK Home Office.

Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have developed a domestic abuse toolkit for General Practice and have delivered domestic abuse training to all universal services. Health Visitors, School Nurses, Midwives and GPs have now embedded questioning about domestic abuse into their routine practice and deliver early intervention / protection work.

Many other health services make a significant contribution to domestic abuse work in identification, managing disclosures and ongoing work, these include but are not exclusive; practice nurses, adult mental health practitioners, CAMHS, social prescribers, sexual health services, emergency departments, and minor injury units. Dorset Healthcare Trust Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service work with the DRIVE perpetrator programme, which challenges and supports domestic abuse perpetrators to change their abusive behaviours.

As well as responding to fires and other emergencies, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service priorities of prevention, protection and governance aim to improve the safety and quality of life for all the communities of Dorset and Wiltshire by helping them make healthier choices, protecting them and the environment from harm, being there when you need us and making every penny count. Throughout the Covid pandemic, the Service worked hard to help keep health and care workers safe during. Fire teams

fitted and tested thousands of face masks, vital to the safety of these important key workers. Fire Service staff also drove ambulances and played their part in helping health colleagues roll out the vaccine programme.

The Service covers an area of over 2,500 square miles and serves around 1.5 million people. It operates from has 50 community fire stations delivering services through a team of over 1,400 operational and corporate staff. The BCP area is supported by 6 fire stations with over 160 firefighters and 19 operational vehicles. The service actively contributes to multi-agency working and engagement with communities, such as Safe and Well checks, Business fire safety checks and road-safety activities, including educational activities in primary schools and with older people. They also deliver youth intervention programmes, helping local young people to build employability, teamwork, and community skills.

Public Health Approach to improving Community safety

BCP CSP have agreed to take what is known as a Public Health Approach to reducing crime and making the community safer. This approach actively considers the wider drivers and systems that affect the whole community, as well as specific groups, and then takes a wider multi-agency response for short, medium, and long-term impacts.

The Public Health Approach aims to prevent violence by exposing a broad segment of the population to prevention measures to reduce and prevent violence at a population level, and target specific groups for certain interventions. It also involves working in partnership with different organisations in a multi-agency way to achieve maximum benefit

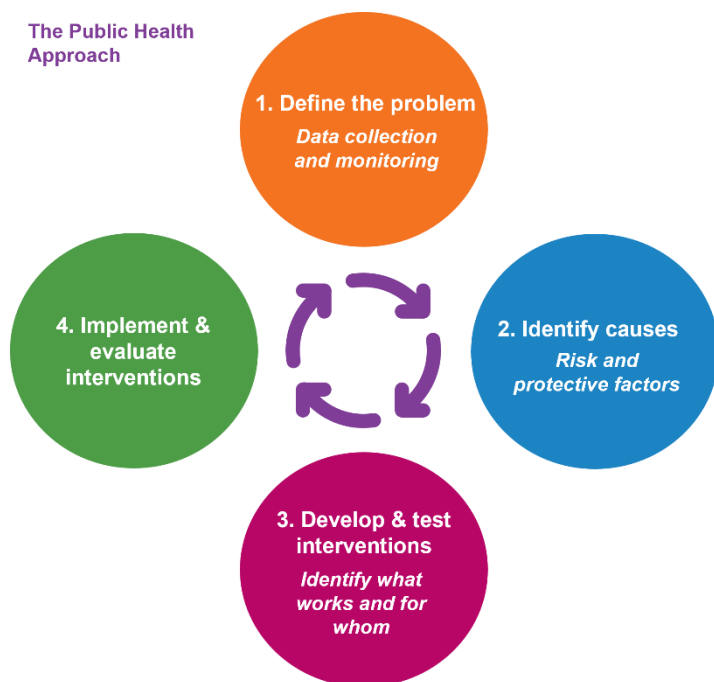
Research evidence has shown statistical association between offending behaviour and the impact of early trauma and adverse childhood experiences. We also know that victims and perpetrators can often be the same population of people who are vulnerable to being drawn into criminality. The whole-community approach must also take account of witnesses or bystanders who are exposed to criminality and may have an increased fear of crime, or suffer long-term negative impact on their mental health, or even increase their isolation and loneliness.

Under the Public Health Approach, different levels of intervention are used depending on the level of focus, as shown in the table below.

Levels of prevention	Types of intervention
Primary – preventing incidents before they happen, i.e., to reduce the number of new incidents of crime in the population	Universal – aimed at the general population
Secondary – immediate response to incidents to decrease prevalence after early signs of problem	Targeted selected – targeted at those more at risk of victimisation
Tertiary – to intervene once the crime problem is evident and causing harm	Targeted indicated – Targeted at those who perpetrate offences

Source: Adapted from Local Government Association, 2018

Many local authority areas have already implemented the Public Health Approach for some years, and we want to learn from their experiences and avoid the mistakes they made. On violence reduction, we will engage authorities who have set up Violence Reduction Units where partners work together to reduce weapons-related hospital admissions, knife-enabled serious violence, and all non-domestic homicides. We want to learn about the necessary culture-change required across partners and delivery agencies to share information, work with whole communities, and collaborate in commissioning and delivery.



Based on what we already know others have done, we will seek to understand prevention at all levels (primary, secondary, tertiary, criminal justice, and enforcement). We will also need to improve our shared understanding of risk and protective factors so we can start to tackle some of the specific causes of the problems we identify. We will then need to develop appropriate interventions and implement them in partnership with communities and businesses, including schools, universities, and hospitals.

This approach will be applied to the various types of crime and disorder experienced in the BCP area, whether it is violence at the most harmful end or anti-social behaviour, which although can be less harmful, affects our residents' quality of life and pride in the areas they live, work or play.

The importance of understanding and improving our knowledge of the issues cannot be underplayed. Using our combined data and intelligence, the Partnership will develop a shared understanding of what poses risks to our communities and what actions we may take to mitigate those risks. This will also include working with our communities to understand their experiences of crime and disorder and to ensure we can intervene early, even before issues develop and are reported to statutory agencies.

Our Dorset NHS partners have developed Dorset Insight and Intelligence Service (DIIS), which provides greater intelligence so that local low-level information can be factored into commissioning decisions. We will use this intelligence to help identify any gaps in services for those who may be vulnerable to exploitation but who may be below threshold for any intervention.

Our analysis will give us better understanding of our vulnerable communities and the threats facing them so we can work together to safeguarding them from harm. We will

use research and established good practice to learn what interventions might be most effective. Some of these interventions may need to be commissioned and delivered by more than one agency and we will seek to join the most appropriate skills and expertise to mainstream delivering community safety interventions across all our services, whether it is working with young people in schools about the harm caused by drugs, or it is engaging adults about preventing fraud and abuse.

Where initiatives have proven to work, we will increase their use with targeted groups and communities, building on our network of community leaders to increase engagement.

The Community Safety Partnership delivery model

The CSP has a clear accountability and delivery structure, with an Executive Board that decides on the strategic priorities, provides oversight and strategic leadership, and approves the annual Partnership Plans. There are two strategic groups that together develop relevant strategies in line with the Partnership's priorities, oversee delivery plans and commission initiatives. Tactical and operational groups deliver and monitor initiatives, ranging from those working with individuals, to those addressing problems in specific locations or for the whole BCP population.

Some agencies that make up the Partnership operate across Dorset and the Partnership also takes account of crime and victimisation involving residents across BCP borders. As such, BCP Community Safety Partnership delivery model includes working with pan-Dorset groups on relevant issues.

Our delivery model has changed from a structure that focusses on individual crime types to one that focusses on four clear strategic themes: Prepare, Engage, Prevent, and Protect. This delivery embodies the principles of the Public Health Approach, with a focus on intelligence and data, engaging communities and building resilience, working collaboratively, and behaviour change across services, within communities and amongst individuals.

We know we need to improve data and intelligence sharing, including our ability to identify those who are at risk of victimisation and those who pose a risk to others, the community, and to themselves. This is key to us understanding and being able to define our problems, and our strategic groups will develop an Information Governance Network to lead this important work. The groups will work to ensure that services are addressing the root causes of the problems with effective interventions.

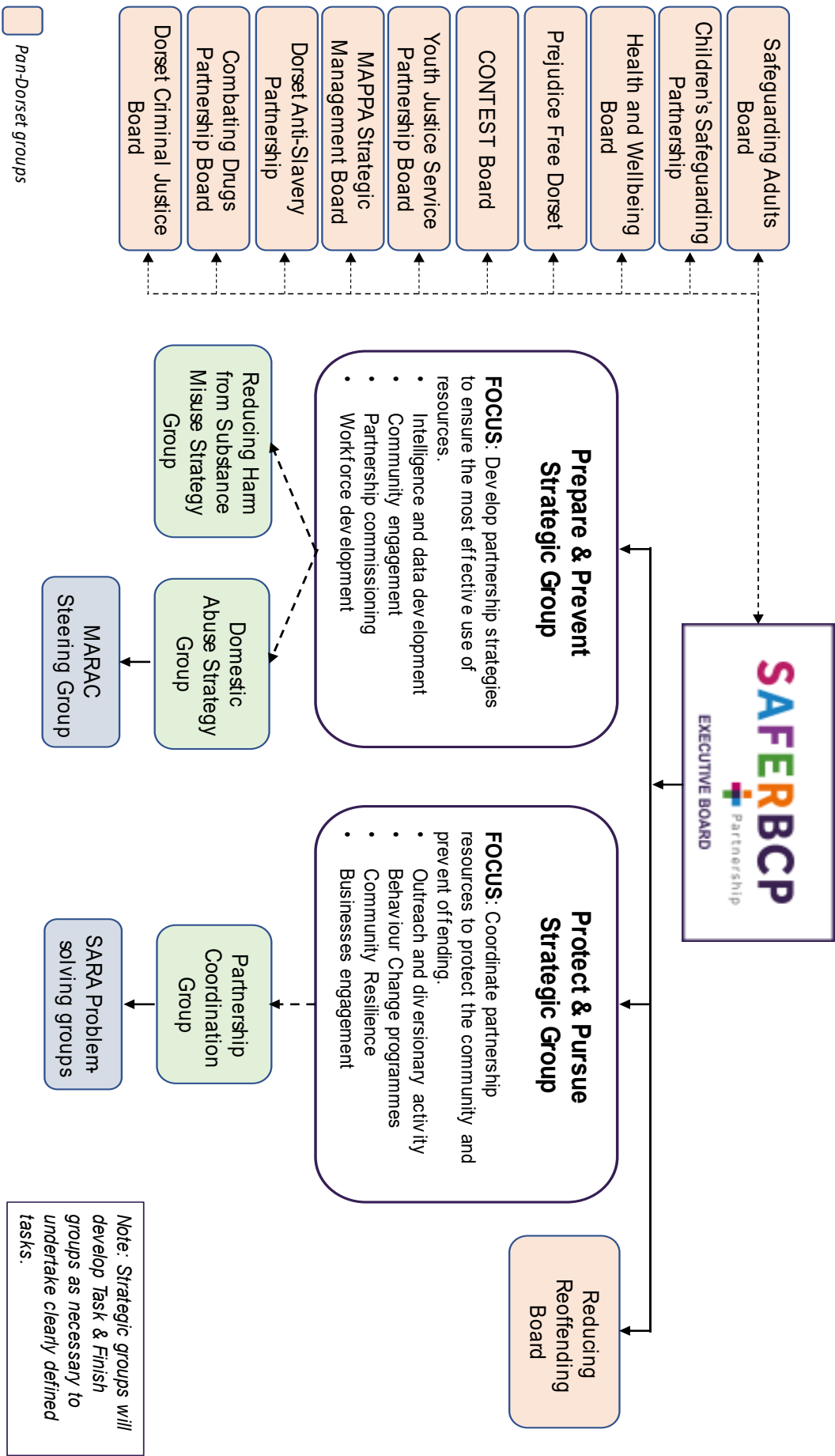
Across our three priorities, we will work to improve our engagement with our communities, including targeted groups such as young and disabled residents, so that we understand their experiences of crime and disorder and can work with them develop sustainable solutions. There are many strengths within BCP communities, which we want to build on, including working with residents to signposting others to support or to report concerns that may put the community at risk.

We are committed to creating a safer BCP and will take opportunities to commission services across multiple agencies and services wherever possible. This will both allow

us to get more out of the funding available and to extend available expertise across sectors.

Throughout the life of this strategy, our annual action plans will include a list of specific activities delivered by our partner organisations to address each of our priorities. There will be different workstreams and short-term groups (called Task and Finish groups) set up as required to provide expert insight, focus and development on particular issues.

The diagram on the next page illustrates the Partnership's, links, accountability, and delivery structure.



Community Safety Priorities

Priority 1. Tackle violent crime in all its forms

We will do this by:

- ✓ improving data sharing to better understand the risks around violent crime and how to reduce the harm it causes
- ✓ proactively tackling crime and working with in schools, including Pupil Referral Units and Alternative Provision, to raise awareness at an early age about how to prevent violence
- ✓ adopting a long term, preventative approach to violence reduction in collaboration with partners through the development of a Violence Reduction Network
- ✓ working with the Business Improvement Districts in Bournemouth and Poole in respect of safety in our town centres and in the night-time economy

Key Performance Indicators:

- ✓ reduction in recorded violent crimes, especially Serious Youth Violence, Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, and weapons-related assaults
- ✓ increase in the number of violence-prevention awareness sessions delivered to young people so they understand what constitutes violence, and are empowered to report violence
- ✓ increase in the number of violent offenders brought to justice

Since 2019/20, there have been overall reductions in the types of crime associated with serious violence, such as robbery, possession of a weapon, and drug offences. However, more recently, some parts of the conurbation have seen small numerical increases in some of these offences, with drug offences increasing by 68%.

Similarly, in 2020/21 BCP saw a 15% reduction in sexual offences compared to the previous year, which was a greater reduction than seen nationally. However, in the wake of the abduction, rape and murder of Sarah Everard in March 2021, plus media coverage and various campaigns aimed at increasing reporting and challenging offenders, by January 2022 the reports of serious sexual offences in BCP had increased. While some of the increase may be because of increased confidence in reporting, the CSP wants to achieve a reduction in all forms of violence, including violence against women and girls.

As a partnership, we have made significant progress in improving safety of women and girls, particularly in relation to our combined response to domestic abuse. However, we are aware that acts of violence or abuse disproportionately affect women and girls and so we will do more to tackle crimes and behaviour including rape and other sexual offences, stalking, and offences committed online. This will involve

working with children and young people who experience violence and providing them with the skills to avoid and prevent violence.

Over the summer of 2021, our assessments identified robberies perpetrated by young people as a concerning issue in some areas. This has been reinforced by information from hospitals regarding the number of young people attending with significant injuries.

Supported by the Government's new legislation under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2012, the CSP will work to develop new partnership arrangements to tackle violence. This will take the form of a Violence Reduction Network, which will aim to prevent violence from happening in the first place, prevent violence from escalating to serious criminality, and prevent violent offenders from reoffending.

The PCSC Act will require us to develop a violence prevention and reduction strategy and will increase the number of partners, such as educational, prisons and youth custody agencies to work closer with us to share information for the purposes of preventing and reducing serious violence. The development of a Violence Reduction Network will embrace these agencies and others to tackle violence at its root, using the Public Health Approach outlined earlier.

The CSP will provide leadership and strategic coordination, working closely with Dorset's Police and Crime Commissioner, to foster collaborative working between partners and to enhance our understanding of the causes of violence and those most at risk of perpetrating violence. The Violence Reduction Network will work with communities to find long-term solutions and build their resilience to avoid violence.

The CSP will also improve links with businesses in our town centres and high-footfall areas to prevent and reduce violence related to alcohol, crowded spaces, and robberies. Uniformed police and council officers will increase visibility, and licencing officers will work with businesses, particularly in the entertainment, accommodation, food, and recreation sectors, to improve safety through staff training and responsible management practices.

A key aspect of our strategy is to improve information-sharing among partners so we can better predict who and which families are more likely to be involved in violent or aggressive behaviours, as well as the places where violent crimes are more likely to occur. We also want to use evidence to understand the periods which can increase the risk of people becoming involved in violent behaviour, and the opportunities when interventions can be most effective.

We will promote and encourage the use of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), which provides specialist medical and forensic services for anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted. The SARC also plays a crucial role in gathering forensic evidence that can lead to the identification of perpetrators so we can get them off our streets and reduce the risks they pose.

We are clear that the community must be involved in our approach to reduce violence, and we will work with our schools, colleges, and universities to educate our young people about how to resolve conflict and to be aware of the dangers of substance misuse. We also want to improve links with our communities so that there is a better

connection between those who need help to avoid or flee violence and the services that can assist them.

Enforcement is a key tool available to us and we will work with other police forces and council services to identify and bring to justice those who present risk of violence in our area, whether they operate locally or from farther afield.

Priority 2. Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks

We will do this by:

- ✓ driving improved identification of potential victims and provide enhanced levels of immediate and sustained support
- ✓ identifying and taking enforcement action against those who exploit vulnerable residents
- ✓ equipping the community to recognise and report exploitation and to know how to minimise risks
- ✓ developing a multi-disciplinary programme to proactively support pupils at risk of exclusion

Key Performance Indicators:

- ✓ increase in the number of criminal and civil powers used to deter offenders, incl. Child Abduction Warning Notices, Community Protection Notices, Recovery Orders, Slavery & trafficking prevention orders, and referrals to the National Referral Mechanism
- ✓ increase in the number of practitioners trained to recognise the signs of exploitation and how to refer for support
- ✓ increase in the use of the Child Exploitation Screening Tool across all levels on intervention with children and young people at risk of exploitation
- ✓ Increase in children reporting that they feel safer, and parents / carers reporting greater confidence about available support and access to it

There is an increasing body of research linking factors such as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), poor mental health, substance misuse and deprivation to an increased likelihood of a person becoming a victim or perpetrating crime or disorder. Our strategic assessment highlights that BCP has a higher-than-England average rate for measures associated with poor mental health, for both adults and young people. This includes emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (for both adults and 10–24-year-olds); inpatient stays in secondary mental health services; school pupils with social, emotional or mental health needs; hospital admissions for mental health conditions (under 18s); and suicides.

We also know that young people who are involved in gangs or who are being exploited to commit violent crimes have significant needs themselves. Of course, young people in the criminal justice system will be held responsible for their actions and the harm they cause to others, but we will continue our approach to assess their needs to safeguard and promote their welfare and to prevent further harm to themselves and others.

Our activity will include ongoing training of frontline practitioners to recognise the signs of exploitation, and we will work with schools and community groups to identify and support children and young people who may be vulnerable to exploitation, or who are being exploited. We want our young people to develop safe and meaningful lives and we are committed to help them build their resilience to the negative attraction that dangerous adults offer only to exploit them.

We will use information from the police and other services to understand more about our vulnerable young people and adults, and those who pose a risk to them. This will include working with services outside of the BCP area to share information on County Lines drug dealers and those locally who prey on the vulnerability of some of our residents. We will also continue and scale up interventions in violent crime hotspots to intervene early before crimes are committed and to safeguard those we believe might be at risk.

We will use the full range of legislative tools, from Child Abduction Warning Notices to Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders and will be proactive in our referrals through the National Referral Mechanism for children exploited for criminal offences such as County Lines, pickpocketing or cannabis cultivation, when we believe they are also victims of modern slavery or human trafficking.

Prevention is a key pillar in our approach, and we will increase the use of our Child Exploitation Screening Tool across all frontline services when professionals believe that the child or young person is at risk of being exploited. We will also work closer with families, from supporting parents-to-be through health and social care services to address trauma caused by their own adverse childhood experiences, to engaging early through Children's services to focus on giving children the best start in life.

Priority 3. Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse

We will do this by:

- ✓ regularly consulting local communities to identify ASB and crime hotspots and work with residents and businesses to improve safety in the affected areas, using a combination of civil and criminal legislation, as well as wider supportive and community-resolution measures available to the council and the police
- ✓ Improving the reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour to the relevant agencies, including the quality of reporting
- ✓ Reducing the risk of harm to vulnerable victims through effective case-management and multi-agency resolution
- ✓ monitoring the number of community triggers raised, with scrutiny into lessons learnt and best practice to continually inform and improve our practices
- ✓ increasing the number of offenders coming out of prison establishments who engage in community provision

Key Performance Indicators:

- ✓ increase in the number of joint patrols by uniformed officers, such as neighbourhood policing teams and council enforcement officers
- ✓ increase in the number of intervention tools used, such as mediation, restorative justice methods, and tenancy warnings
- ✓ increase in the community reporting of personal ASB
- ✓ increase in the number of criminal and civil powers used to reduce ASB, incl. Civil Injunctions, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Community Protection Notices, and Closure Powers
- ✓ increase capacity for substance misuse treatment and reduce drug and alcohol-related deaths

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) refers to a wide range of behaviours, from environmental issues such as litter or dog mess, through to personal nuisance such as noise. ASB may also include criminal offences such as arson, criminal damage, and public order, depending on the severity of the incident and the effect on the person experiencing it.

Our strategy is to resolve ASB before the behaviour becomes detrimental. However, where early intervention and supportive methods have failed, such as mediation, restorative justice, and tenancy warnings, we will use the full range of tools and powers available to the police, council, and housing providers to tackle ASB and neighbourhood crime.

ASB is also a subjective issue, and what one person finds to be a nuisance, another may not even notice. BCP CSP wants to be led by residents in understanding and tackling ASB and low-harm offences that concern them in their local areas, which may be different in different parts of the conurbation. Although our aim is to reduce anti-social behaviour incidents, we want to encourage more reporting so we may direct services accordingly and work with businesses and residents to identify, challenge and stop behaviours that can impact the quality of life for our residents and visitors.

We know that drugs and alcohol misuse sometimes lie behind persistent ASB or crimes in certain locations and, together with other commitments in our strategy, we want to identify these hotspot locations and persistent behaviours and target interventions at the underlying causes. These can be down to individual behaviours but also can be related to the environment itself or to the conduct of businesses in a location.

The new national Drug Strategy, [From Harm to Hope](#), sets out the Government's 10-year ambition to achieve a generational shift in our relationship with drugs, and to reduce overall drug use. The strategy noted that seaside towns are among the areas with higher prevalence of multiple disadvantages (drug addiction, homelessness and contact with the criminal justice system). Bournemouth ranked 9th for opiate and crack misuse at 15.05 per 1,000 of population, and 8th for multiple disadvantages and complexities, at 12.4 per 1,000 of working adults.

We already commission and provide a range of support services for residents who use drugs, and those affected by others' illicit drug misuse. As a condition of grant funding, we must have regard to the need to improve the take up of, and outcomes from, our drug and alcohol misuse treatment services. We will work together to target individuals in hotspot locations, to deliver interventions to increase their motivation to engage in services and offer bespoke packages of support in line with their assessed needs.

While some people can drink alcohol responsibly, drug and alcohol misuse and dependence can have a far reaching and devastating impact on individuals and communities. Nationally, liver disease is now the second leading cause of premature death among people of working age, and BCP has a higher rate than the England average for the number of alcohol related hospital admission. The impact on the quality of lives for some residents can be significant and can affect other life outcomes, such as their health and wellbeing.

BCP Council have just started a project with Alcohol Change UK to look at cognitive functioning impairment in dependent drinkers. Some street drinkers within the BCP area, or individuals who cause ASB due to their substance misuse, could fall into this category and may be making decisions with impaired functioning which puts them at risk. At the end of the year-long project we will have a toolkit for screening, providing guidance around working with individuals with cognitive impairment, and offer training to relevant frontline staff.

The CSP aims increase coordination across police, council, and housing partners to tailor responses to meet the different challenges in localities and support residents to live their lives without fear or intimidation caused by persistent ASB and crime in certain locations. We also want to ensure our young people can use our parks and

open spaces without fear of drug dealers pressuring them to use or sell illicit substances.

Our strategy includes working closer at neighbourhood levels to engage residents and businesses about crime and ASB in their locality and work together to develop solutions that work, building on the strengths in these communities to develop the behaviour changes that are necessary to challenge criminality and ASB. We will raise awareness of the Community Trigger process, which gives victims of persistent anti-social behaviour reported to any of the main responsible agencies (such as the council, police, housing provider) the right to request a multi-agency case review of their case, where the threshold is met.

We will develop a dedicated partnership ASB strategy that sets out exactly how agencies will work together to improve the daily quality of life of our residents, whether it is about them feeling safe to use our spectacular public spaces during the daytime or take advantage of our growing night-time economy.

BCP Council have increased CCTV capacity across the conurbation to assist in deterring crime and ASB. CCTV also plays a significant role in identifying crime and ASB hotspots and can provide evidence to bring offenders to justice. We will further improve how we use information provided by CCTV to support our information-led approach.

Community Engagement and Communication

We know that actively engaged communities contribute significantly to the improvement of services, the reduction of anti-social behaviour and improved community safety. Communities can only make these contributions if the communication and engagement work of the Partnership is undertaken with a genuine desire to communicate, listen and learn.

Our strategy is to build on communication and engagement work already done by each partner agency, and to ensure that residents and partners are involved as active participants in improving safety in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, and that the public's contribution influences decisions regarding the Partnership's priorities.

The Partnership will communicate with the community and establish dialogue where individuals, groups or organisations can feed in ideas to help shape our activities. We will consult with the community on matters of concern to them, to get messages out, share information, and to raise awareness of measures to improve safety for individuals and the wider community.

All partners will take a multi-agency approach, where possible, for relevant communication with residents and stakeholders, so that all partners are working towards shared communication aims and outcomes and are providing consistent messages to inform and reassure local communities.

The Partnership will make the most of all opportunities throughout each year to engage with all segments of the community on place and issue-based concerns, and to develop our work and future priorities, informed by such ongoing engagement.

All partners of the CSP will have their own existing platforms for engagement with communities within BCP. Wherever it is appropriate, the CSP will also engage residents and communities through these routes to avoid duplication and to extend our reach across agency boundaries.

Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

Purpose

What is being reviewed?	The BCP Community Safety Partnership's Community Safety Strategy
Service Lead and Service Unit:	Alva Bailey – Community Safety Service
People involved in EIA process:	
Date/s EIA started and reviewed:	April 2022

Background

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by section 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships to develop Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategies every three years. The BCP Community Safety Partnership (known as Safer BCP) is the statutory partnership with this responsibility. The partnership brings together key statutory bodies with community, voluntary and private sector partners to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic and sexual abuse/violence, substance misuse and reoffending in BCP.

Senior officers and many staff in all partner agencies have been consulted in developing the strategy. Consultation also included several voluntary sector partners via the Community Action Network.

Findings

BCP CSP has developed a three-year Community Safety Strategy, with a focus on three priorities and thirteen objectives that underpin the Partnerships commitment to improve safety of all residents in the conurbation. Partner agencies will engage their own workforce, partners, stakeholders, and communities to deliver the strategy by reducing crime and disorder and improving safety through supporting victims and rehabilitating offenders.

BCP CSP will work with partners to build a safer and stronger BCP and will monitor and evaluate the strategy and delivery plans to ensure all objectives are met.

Employees of all CSP partner agencies will be positively affected by the strategy, as the strategy provides clear priorities and objectives on which plans and initiatives can be built, which will be beneficial for all staff.

The strategy makes clear for residents what the priorities for the combined agencies are, above individual agency priorities, and sets out what residents can expect from the CSP in relation to the priorities. The strategy also sets out a commitment to involve residents in making their communities safer.

The Strategy will have a positive impact on all members of the community and will bring additional focus on young people's involvement in offending and victimisation and will seek to improve their safety and reduce their vulnerabilities.

Current and previous members of the armed forces total around 15,575 veterans and 1,040 serving personnel. However, there are no identified community safety risks to this community. Active monitoring of the strategy and its delivery plans will help to identify victimisation by different groups of residents, including those with protected characteristics.

Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

- *Those with caring responsibilities*
- *Those with physical disabilities*
- *Those with mental disabilities*
- *Different ages (young and old)*
- *Different genders*
- *Those who identify as trans*
- *Those who are pregnant/on maternity*
- *Those who are married/in a civil partnership*
- *People from different ethnic groups*
- *People with different religions or beliefs*
- *People with different sexual orientations*
- *People in different socio-economic groups*
- *People's human rights*

There is no negative or adverse impact on any group or individual with protected characteristics as a result of the strategy.

Conclusion

Summary of Equality Implications

BCP CSP expects that the strategy will have a positive impact on all groups within the community, including those who are identified as being at high risk of certain crime types. The CSP will adopt a SMART approach to developing annual delivery plans and ensure they respond to the needs of all groups. The CSP will promote the strategic priorities among partners through working at strategic, tactical and operational levels to ensure outcomes are achieved. The Partnership will improve information-sharing to assist in identifying residents who are at risk of criminal victimisation or exploitation. This will include working with schools, colleges and universities to provide information and education on how to build resilience, identify risks and vulnerabilities, and how to report concerns.

The three strategic priorities are set out below:

1. Tackle violent crime in all its forms
2. Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks
3. Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse

Each priority has key objectives and performance indicators, which will be monitored by the CSP.

Prepared by:

Date:

Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

[This action plan provides a summary of any negative impacts and relevant mitigating actions]

Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Please complete this Action Plan for any negative or unknown impacts identified above. Use the table from the Capturing Evidence form to assist.

Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact	Timescale	Responsible officer
Additional focus required on young people's involvement in offending and victimisation rates	Undertake research on YP's offending and victimisation rates, in relation to age, gender, pregnancy & maternity, race, and religion or belief	April 2023	Community Safety Analyst
Additional research and analysis of victimisation by certain groups	Undertake research and analysis of criminal victimisation among the following groups: disability, gender reassignment and sexual orientation	April 2023	Community Safety Analyst

Form Version 1.2

Prepared by:

Date:

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CABINET



Report subject	Finance Strategy Update Report
Meeting date	26 October 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>In response to the Councils request for a £76m Capitalisation Direction covering a three-year period, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) issued a minded to £20m offer for 2022/23 only, subject to various conditions. This included the requirement for the Council to produce a full plan for addressing its budget gap in 2023/24 and share that with DLUHC by the end of September 2022. It was subsequently acknowledged this position would be set out in this October report.</p> <p>This report demonstrates that the Council has made further good progress in prudently positioning itself to deliver, and also sets out how it would achieve, a balanced budget for 2023/24. The challenge now will be translating this work into a detailed implementation workstream and strength testing the deliverability of the assumptions that have been made particularly those around service savings and efficiencies and to avoid double-counting savings across the transformation programme.</p> <p>In addition, the report sets out that work is now being undertaken to determine if the Council can avoid drawing down on a capitalisation direction for 2022/23 by bringing forward in the region £20m of non-strategic asset disposals by 31 March 2023.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Acknowledges the materially improved financial position for 2022/23 which is now expected to produce a surplus of at least £7.8m, excluding transformation costs. This is in the context of an additional c£25m of in year cost of living pressures. 2) Acknowledges the plan to deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24 and that its deliverability will now be tested as part of the implementation process. 3) Authorises officers to commence the work to ensure the deliverability of the budget including any necessary consultations as required.

	<p>4) Acknowledge the intent to consider the extent to which a capitalisation direction can be avoided in 2022/23 by bringing forward the disposal of non-strategic assets.</p> <p>5) Agree that the current expenditure controls remain in place to generate additional in-year savings.</p> <p>It is RECOMMENDED that Council:</p> <p>6) Approve £1.9m of investment in 2022/23 in a specific transformation workstream in Children's Services as set out in appendix A.</p> <p>7) Approve the further release of earmarked reserves as set out in appendix C.</p>
Reason for recommendations	Further to a recommendation agreed by Cabinet on the 7 September 2022, an update on the Councils financial strategy will be a standing item on the Cabinet agenda until such time as there is a balanced budget for 2023/24.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader, and Portfolio Holder for Finance & Transformation
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Author	Adam Richens, Chief Finance Officer, and S.151 Officer adam.richens@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. Further to reports to Cabinet on the 22 June, and the 7 and 28 of September 2022 it has been established that the Council needs a revised financial strategy for funding the cost of its Transformation Investment Programme, net of any already assumed capital receipts, and for balancing the revenue budgets in the short and medium term.

Figure 1: Transformation Investment Programme

	22/23 £m	23/24 £m	24/25 £m	Total £m
One-off costs	15.6	3.7	1.9	21.2
Base budget staff costs apportioned to Transformation	6.7	6.7	6.7	20.1
Redundancy costs	1.2	10.4	0.7	12.3
Data & insight capability	1.4	0.4	0.0	1.8
Contingency	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.5
Core Transformation Programme	25.3	21.6	10.0	56.9
Children's services transformation programme <i>(not budgeted)</i>	2.0	5.0	5.0	12.0
Adult Services transformation programme <i>(not budgeted)</i>	2.0	5.0	5.0	12.0
Capital Receipts - already delivered	(1.9)	0.0	0.0	(1.9)
Capital Receipts - scheduled and assumed deliverable	(7.4)	(3.7)	(1.1)	(12.2)
Transformation Investment Programme	20.0	27.9	18.9	66.8

Pay and Reward project - Implementation cost			9.1	9.1
Capitalisation Direction - Total Investment Programme	20.0	27.9	28.0	75.9

It should be emphasised this programme includes £6.7m of base revenue budget staff costs assumed as being rechargeable to the programme in the three years 2022/23 to 2024/25.

- Following dialogue with government, as part of the Exceptional Financial Support programme, DLUHC issued a "minded to" decision to provide the Council with a £20m Capitalisation Direction for 2022/23 subject to the following conditions.
 - The Council produces a full plan for addressing its budget gap in 2023/24 and beyond and share that with DLUHC by the end of September 2022. This plan should utilise all the resources available to the Council to close the budget gap, be fully within the spirit and intent of all local government guidance and aim to eliminate any exceptional financial support required going forward.
 - An external assurance review of the Council's finances and governance arrangements in the Autumn of 2022.
- Additionally, like all local authorities the Council has had to deal with the implications of rapidly increasing inflation driven by the post pandemic economic environment, the war in Ukraine, and government fiscal policies. It is therefore important to consider the council's financial strategy and position in the context of the significant funding gaps being signalled by all local authorities as a sector at this time.
- As part of the 28 September 2022 Finance Update Report, Cabinet endorsed a financial strategy focused on traditional financial management process and designed to enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2023/24 and beyond. These workstreams were listed as.

a) Financial Outturn.

The aim being to deliver a surplus in 2022/23 which can be used to create resources (via an earmarked reserve) which then can be drawn down in support of the 2023/24 budget. This process should be facilitated by a previous Cabinet decision not to undertake any new financial commitments until such time as there is a balanced budget for 2023/24.

b) Transformation Programme.

Review proposed expenditure to ensure it is absolutely necessary to deliver the key essential elements of the programme, costs associated with service enhancement are avoided, and processes are adopted to avoid or reduce redundancy costs.

c) Non-Strategic Asset Disposals.

Establish a schedule of non-strategic assets disposals which can be used, via the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (FUCR) statutory guidance, to fund, as a minimum, the £17.9m 2023/24 and £8.9m 2024/25 of Council approved revenue transformation expenditure (net of the current approved capital receipts). In addition, the ambition, will be to fund an additional £10m of investment in both 2023/24 and 2024/25 in the Children's and Adults' specific transformation programmes subject to the presentation of robust business cases which demonstrate both budget savings and adherence to the statutory guidance. This gives a target receipt of a minimum of £26.8m and a maximum requirement of £46.8m over the two year from April 2023 to 31 March 2025.

d) Accommodation Strategy.

Fundamental review of buildings occupied by BCP Council with a view to further consolidating the staff in the Civic Centre and considering future options for owned buildings or passing back leasehold properties as soon as practical.

e) Commercial Opportunities.

In line with the approved recommendation of Cabinet on 7 September 2022, explore options across the council to deliver revenue through further commercialisation.

f) Staff Cost Base

Consider several proposals designed to reduce the employee cost basis of the authority either temporary or permanently, including.

- Increase the percentage of the employee establishment not budgeted for 2023/24 from 2% to 5%.
- Determine extent to which vacant posts can be held or permanently removed.
- Limit the use of agency employees.
- Bring forward at pace a council wide apprenticeship programme.

It should be noted that any savings in staff or third party will, in the first instance, be considered as part of the programmed transformation savings.

g) An Enabling Council – Strength Based Approach

Consider the extent to which the community would be better placed to manage council assets and the services delivered within them through volunteers and other sources of funding.

h) Invest to Save

Consider robust self-financing business cases that utilise the council's ability to borrow to invest in capital infrastructure which additionally will drive down operational costs or avoid demand pressures.

i) Harmonisation of Services

The Council has ambitions to harmonise all services across the conurbation following on from Local Government Reorganisation. Good progress has been made. The proposal now is to review all outstanding areas of harmonisation with an intent to eliminate as many areas of difference as possible, within the budget parameters

j) Integrated Care System

Advance ongoing discussions with the representatives of the new Integrated Care System (who represent the delivery of National Health Services across Dorset) with a view to determining how the two organisations can more effectively work together with a view to driving down the overall costs of the system.

k) Review of Earmarked Reserves and Company/Third Party Balances

Annual review of earmarked reserves to ensure funds are not being tied up unnecessarily and were appropriate being released to support the proposed budgets of the council.

l) Capitalisation – Recharges

Further review of any costs currently charged to revenue which in line with the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice can be legitimately charged to capital. Similarly, consideration should be undertaken to ensure robust arrangements are in place regarding costs apportioned/charged against government grants and the housing revenue account.

m) Review of the Council's Collection Funds

A fundamental and detailed review of the collection funds, both Council Tax and Business Rates, as the position starts to stabilise in a post pandemic environment.

n) Influence and Lobbying

This includes requesting government support the council in managing the financial consequences of the cost-of living crisis as well as changing legislation or allowing local authorities to increase appropriate statutorily set fees (such as penalty charge notices for car park enforcement), or where the fee does not cover the cost of the service provided, and charges in reflection of previous and future forecast rates of inflation.

o) Service Rationalisations

Consideration of services that the local authority is not required to provide and any expenditure on services that it is required to provide which is above the statutory minimum.

Updated Medium Term Financial Plan

- The 28 September Cabinet report set out the previous MTFP position assuming the council meets the conditions for the 2022/23 £20m capitalisation direction further to the minded to offer from DLUHC.

Figure 2: Cabinet 28 September forecast MTFP Position

	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Annual - Net Funding Gap	16.4	2.0	(3.0)	(1.1)	14.4
Cumulative MTFP - Net Funding Gap	16.4	18.5	15.5	14.4	

- Figure 3 below sets out the current MTFP updated for the work carried out since the 28 September Cabinet report. As a reminder to councillors, the following MTFP variance charts show changes in the revenue budgets, on an annual basis, either positive numbers which represent additional costs to be met, or negative which represent forecast cost reductions or additional income. The variances are shown in the year in which they are expected to be first seen and are then assumed to recur on an ongoing basis in each of the following years. One-off changes will be seen as an entry in one year and will then being reversed out in a following year. For example, it is currently assumed to use £7.8m from the forecast outturn for 2022/23 in support of the 2023/24 budget.
- From the table it can be demonstrated that the Council has identified the potential actions that now will be necessary to balance the 23/24 budget based on the current assumptions. These assumptions will need to be constantly reviewed in the hope that the service and cost of living pressures can be lowered from those currently predicted which in turn will mean that not all of the service-based savings will need to be implemented. That said, the work required to enable delivery of these service-based saving will now need to start in earnest which will include consideration of any necessary stakeholder and staff consultation or engagement.

The service-based savings and efficiencies are presented above and below a sub-total line. The reason for this is to emphasise that although a lot of these savings will be challenging for an organisation, those below the line will be more challenging and this should be set in the context of further workstreams including conversations with our health colleagues, detailed work on our current vacancies as well as at least the potential to receive some support from government in relation to the £55m of Cost of Living pressures we have been faced with over 2 years.

It can therefore be summarised that the balanced position for 2023/24 is achieved after £42.6m in savings and efficiencies made up of £9.6m of currently unitemised transformation related third party spend savings, £0.6m of currently unidentified savings in Children's Services, and £32.4m of itemised service-based savings and efficiencies of which £4.6m are noted as being more challenging.

For scaling purposes, the £42.6m of total savings and efficiencies amount to 16% of the Councils £272m Net Revenue Expenditure.

Figure 3: Funding Gap for 2023/24 (Updated MTFP Position)

Adjustments to the cost of services	23/24 £m	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	26/27 £m	Total £m
Adult social care and public health	18.8	13.5	8.2	8.7	49.2
Adult social care reforms	12.8	17.2	2.6	0.0	32.6
Children's services	14.6	8.4	9.0	9.6	41.6
Operations	9.3	4.3	1.9	1.5	17.0
Reversal of securitisation of income stream proposal	(3.7)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(3.7)
Resource services	(0.6)	1.4	0.5	0.4	1.7
Staff costs being charged to transformation prior 25/26	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	6.7
Capitalisation direction 22/23 cost of capital & interest repayments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transformation base revenue budget costs	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Transformation redundancy costs that cannot be charged against FUCR	2.1	(1.9)	(0.1)	0.0	0.1
Corporate priorities one-offs for 2022/23	(8.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	(8.2)
Pay related costs	8.3	3.8	3.8	3.8	19.7
Pay and grading project	0.0	9.1	(4.5)	0.0	4.6
Contingency	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3
Debt and capital adjustments	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.1)	(0.6)
Treasury Management & Investment income adjusted disposals	(1.6)	1.4	(0.1)	0.0	(0.3)
Total adjustments in respect of cost of services	53.0	57.2	27.7	23.9	161.8
Adjustments in respect of resource levels					
Council tax – revenue - 2.99% per annum (1.99% basic + 1% SC precept)	(6.8)	(7.1)	(7.4)	(7.7)	(29.1)
Council tax - taxbase	(3.0)	(2.6)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(8.2)
Council tax - second homes 100% premium	0.0	(5.3)	0.0	0.0	(5.3)
Council tax - empty homes premium after 1st rather than 2nd year	0.0	(0.9)	0.0	0.0	(0.9)
Collection fund – (surplus) / deficit distribution net of S31 grant	4.7	(2.6)	0.0	0.0	2.1
Government core grant funding changes	0.8	0.0	2.5	0.0	3.3
Assumed social care reforms funding	(12.8)	(17.2)	(2.6)	0.0	(32.6)
Assumed additional social care grant funding	(3.1)	(2.7)	(2.7)	(2.7)	(11.2)
Reserve Funding - One-off funding supporting 2022/23 budget	36.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.1
Reserve Funding - Removal of COMF contribution 2022/23 priorities	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Reserve Funding - Improved outturn 2021/22 to support 23/24 budget	(14.2)	14.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reserve Funding - Redirect earmarked reserve to support 23/24 budget	(5.3)	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reserve Funding - Assumed surplus 2021/22 to support 23/24 budget	(7.8)	7.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total previously assumed adjustments in resource levels	(10.4)	(11.1)	(11.5)	(11.7)	(44.8)
Assumed additional savings, and efficiencies					
Unitemised Transformation savings	(9.6)	(17.8)	0.0	0.0	(27.4)
Following transformation, further net FTE reductions	0.0	0.0	(7.2)	0.0	(7.2)
Scheduled service based savings (include. Adults, Children's, Transformation)	(27.8)	(5.4)	(2.6)	(3.0)	(38.8)
Unidentified Adult Social Care savings (2.99% growth restriction)	0.0	(3.0)	(3.1)	(3.5)	(9.6)
Unidentified Children's savings (2.99% growth restriction)	(0.6)	(5.4)	(6.5)	(7.0)	(19.5)
Total assumed annual extra savings and efficiencies	(38.0)	(31.6)	(19.4)	(13.5)	(102.5)
Sub Total - Annual – Net Funding Gap	4.6	14.5	(3.2)	(1.3)	14.6
Sub Total - Cumulative MTFP – Net Funding Gap	4.6	19.1	15.9	14.6	
Scheduled service based savings (includes Adults, Children's, Transformation)	(4.6)	1.3	(0.3)	0.1	(3.5)
Annual – Net Funding Gap	(0.0)	15.8	(3.5)	(1.2)	11.1
Cumulative MTFP – Net Funding Gap	(0.0)	15.8	12.3	11.1	

8. This updated 4-year MTFP position will move BCP Council onto a significantly more sustainable footing at a time when there is significant uncertainty across the sector with many authorities publicly questioning their ability to balance 23/24 budgets without external support. This should be set in the context of this Council being challenged with cost-of-living pressures current estimated to be around £25m in 22/23 and £30m for 2023/24. Collectively a £55m impact over the two-year period since the 22/23 budget was set in February 2022.
9. The key variances from the position as set out in the 28 September 2022 report to Cabinet include.
 - a) Further improvement in the forecast outturn for 2022/23. Analysis of these further variances, which amount to a £3.7m increase in the surplus, now mean that the overall surplus for the year is predicted to be £7.8m and is presented as Appendix D to this report.

This improvement includes the assumption that Council will agree to charge £1.9m to the Children's Services specific transformation programme in 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A. This expenditure is principally £1.5m of costs previously included in the forecast outturn for 2022/23 which delivers transformation related savings, that are now included in the budget proposals for 2023/24, and therefore can be refinanced either via the capitalisation direction or alternatively via the flexible use of capital receipts. The total £1.9m includes £400k of expenditure yet to be incurred regarding the building stronger foundations. Business cases for future transformation funding to support the savings assumptions previously hardcoded into the MTFP based on a 2.99% restriction in their growth will be brought forward in due course.

To aid the delivery of a surplus in 2022/23, this report recommends the continuation of the existing expenditure control that no new financial commitments are made (other than with the specific agreement of the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance) until the 2023/24 budget is formally set in February 2023.

- b) An additional proposal for redirecting earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix C.
- c) Review of the assumptions underpinning the MTFP. For example, the latest position includes a further pressure of £0.1m per annum, as advised by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA), regarding a 150% increase in the external audit fee level from next financial year.
- d) Review of staff cost base costs including a refinement of the vacancy drag estimate and review of vacant posts that do not need to be replaced etc.
- e) The investment in care technology as per the business case that is presented elsewhere on this Cabinet agenda.
- f) Recognising the intent to avoid the need to draw down on a capitalisation direction in 2022/23 by bringing forward the disposal of Non-Strategic Assets. Confidential Appendix B provides details of these assets. Council will only be formally asked to dispose of the assets once officers have explored the feasibility of delivering within the required timeframe and prior to formal sale.
- g) Service efficiencies and changes which have been identified at this time and subject to further work to determine any constraints around their implementation

for 1 April 2023 onwards. For example, certain proposals will need consultation with stakeholders such as the public or employees.

Reserves

10. Councils generally hold two main forms of reserves.
11. **Unearmarked Reserves** are set aside to help manage the risk to the council's financial standing in the event of extraordinary or otherwise unforeseen events and to mitigate the underlying operational risk associated with the operation of the council and the management of service expenditure, income, and the council's funding
12. Analysis included in the June MFP Update report to Cabinet showed that on a net revenue expenditure (NRE) basis despite a £0.7m additional investment as part of the 2022/23 budget the percentage dropped to 4.7% which puts us on the lower side of the median, and below the level 5% previously recommended minimum used by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).
13. The council's financial strategy continues to be to increase the unearmarked reserves by £0.7m per annum.
14. **Earmarked Reserves:** *are set aside for specific purposes including those held in support of various partnerships where the council is the accountable body, reserves committed to supporting the 2022/23 budget of the Council, reserves which represent government grants received in advance of the associated expenditure, reserves held on behalf of third parties and several reserves the council is required to hold in line with statute or its own governance requirements.*
15. As set out in Figure 5 below the Council had earmarked reserves of £114m as at the 31 March 2022. Of this the majority (£40m) relates to government grants received in advance of the actual expenditure including £18m specifically to mitigate the impact that various Covid business rates reliefs will have on the council's business rates collection fund. It should also be borne in mind that the 2022/23 budget assumed that £36m would be drawn down from the Financial Resilience and Transition/Transformation earmarked reserves to finance the approved level of expenditure.
16. The financial strategy supporting the development of the 2023/24 budget, as referenced earlier in this document, sets out the intention to constantly challenge each of the earmarked reserves to ensure that funds are not being tied up unnecessarily. The intention from the review is where appropriate to release these resources to support the proposed budgets of the council. This approach will though need to acknowledge the relationship with the growing deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Figure 5: Latest Reserve Forecast

	Balance Actual 31/3/21 £m	Balance Actual 31/3/22 £m	Balance Estimate 31/3/23 £m	Balance Estimate 31/3/24 £m	Balance Estimate 31/3/25 £m	Balance Estimate 31/3/26 £m	Balance Estimate 31/3/27 £m
Un-earmarked Reserves	15.3	15.3	16.0	16.7	17.4	18.1	18.8
Earmarked Reserves	153.8	114.4	35.1	13.9	12.5	12.6	12.8
Reserves Established to support the 2023/24 Budget							
Cost of Living Mitigation from 21/22			14.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Redirected Earmarked Reserves			5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Assumed 2022/23 surplus			7.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total General Fund Reserves	169.1	129.7	78.4	30.6	29.9	30.7	31.6
Dedicated Schools Grant (1)	(7.8)	(20.3)	(37.0)	(62.2)	(99.5)	(149.9)	(215.7)
Dedicated Schools Grant (2)	(7.8)	(20.3)	(37.0)	(57.6)	(80.2)	(102.3)	(121.7)
Net Position DSG1 – (Deficit)	161.3	109.4	41.4	(31.6)	(69.6)	(119.2)	(184.1)
Net Position DSG2 – (Deficit)	161.3	109.4	41.4	(27.0)	(50.3)	(71.6)	(90.1)

Please note that the forecasts for the accumulating deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has not yet been updated based on the output of the first module of the Delivering Better Value (DBV) in Special Educational Needs and Disability Programme. In addition, it is hoped that the later modules of this programme will indicate how this deficit could/should be addressed.

Options appraisal

- This paper builds on the previous recognition of material changes to the risk profile of the 2022/23 budget and MTFP. This includes significant costs pressures associated with the cost of living, changes to the FUCR statutory guidance, messages from the Secretary of State around ensuring authorities also adhere to the spirit and intent of legislation, and the government being minded-to offer the council a £20m capitalisation direction for 2022/23.

The “minded to” offer of a £20m Capitalisation Direction for 2022/23 is an opportunity for the council to avoid bringing forward further capital receipts or resources currently earmarked in support of the 2023/24 budget to fund the cost of its transformation programme in the current financial year. This offer is contingent upon the Council meeting the conditions of the offer letter. Conversations with officers at DLUHC indicate that there is a strong likelihood that the external assurance review of the Councils finances and governance arrangements will still proceed regardless of whether the Council signals an intention not to take the capitalisation direction.

Conclusion

- Cabinet has prudently positioned the council to deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24. The forecast funding gap has reduced from £36.4m to £16.4m to now

zero through finding efficiencies and service reductions that can be delivered to reduce expenditure. Work will now commence on ensuring the deliverability of the assumed savings including any necessary public or employee consultation, to ensure that the savings are delivered by 1 April 2023 so that the full year effect of the saving is achieved.

The balanced budget position should be seen in the context of the funding gaps being signalled by all local authorities at this time be that due to demand pressures or due to the impact of the cost of living.

Work is also now required to determine the feasibility of bringing forward £20m of non-strategic asset sales by the 31 March 2023 to avoid drawing down on the capitalisation direction, if possible.

Despite having moved to the assumption in the current drafting of the budget MTFP of the council not drawing down on the Capitalisation direction Cabinet still welcome the external governance and finance assurance reviews that were a condition of the capitalisation direction and are in dialogue with DLUHC with expectation that these will be commissioned later in October.

Summary of legal implications

19. The council has a fiduciary duty to its taxpayers to be prudent in the administration of the funds it holds on their behalf and an equal duty to consider the interests of their community which benefit from the services it provides.
20. It is the responsibility of councillors to ensure the council sets a balanced budget for the forthcoming year. In setting such a budget councillors and officers of the council have a legal requirement to ensure it is balanced in a manner which reflects the needs of both current and future taxpayers in discharging these responsibilities. In essence, this is a direct reference to ensure that Council sets a financially sustainable budget which is mindful of the long-term consequences of any short-term decisions.
21. As a billing authority, failure to set a legal budget by 11 March each year may lead to intervention from the Secretary of State under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999. It should however be noted that the deadline is, in reality, 1 March each year to allow sufficient time for the council tax direct debit process to be adhered to.

Summary of human resources implications

22. There are no direct human resource implications of this report. However, the MTFP and budget will have a direct impact on the level of services delivered by the council, the mechanisms by which those services are delivered and the associated staffing establishment.
23. This report acknowledges that the transformation programme and the actions necessary to manage future years funding gaps are likely to have an impact on future staffing levels.

Summary of sustainability impact

24. There are no direct sustainability implications of this report

Summary of public health implications

25. There are no direct public health implications of this report.

Summary of equality implications

26. A full equalities impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the final February 2023 report to members as part of the annual budget process.

Summary of risk assessment

27. The risks inherent in the 2022/23 budget were clearly set out in the February 2022 Council budget report for 2022/23. This and the previous June and September finance reports to Cabinet recognised a change in the risk profile and recommends appropriate mitigation to maintain a balanced budget for 2022/23 and make a material impact on the potential funding gap for 2023/24. Key risks include.

Capitalisation Direction.

Not presenting a full plan to balance the 2023/24 budget to DLUHC would have jeopardised the Councils ability to achieve a £20m capitalisation direction in 2022/23. This would have meant either additional in-year capital receipts needing to be generated (which the Council will now test the feasibility of achieving) or utilising the resources currently supporting the balancing of the 2023/24 budget. The second of these would impede the ability to set a legal, balanced budget for 2023/24. Associated with this would have been at least the possibility of direct government intervention in the council.

Accumulating Deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant

Accumulated and growing deficits on the dedicated school's grant which by the 31 March 2024 will be greater than the total reserves available to the council. Unless the current regulation that allows the council to ignore this position is extended this will mean the councils s151 Officer, and probably may others nationally, will be required to issue a s114 notice for 2023/24.

BCP FuturePlaces Ltd

The Council have committed a £8m working capital loan to BCP FuturePlaces Ltd a wholly owned teckal company established to drive the Councils regeneration ambitions. They recover expenditure incurred principally by being paid for successful business cases approved by the Council. The £8m working capital loan represents about 50% of the council's current unearmarked reserves.

Adults & Children's Services: Unidentified Savings

The MTFP as set out in Figure 3 includes an assumption that Children's Services will deliver £0.6m in, yet unidentified savings in 2023/24. In addition, there are further annual unidentified savings across Adults and Children's Services which grow to £29m per annum for 2026/27. This assumption is based on a 2.99% annual growth restriction in Adults and Children's services included in the February 2022 budget report and is aligned to the intended £10m investment in a specific service-based transformation programme in these service areas in both 2024/25 and 2025/26 to deliver the savings presumed by the growth restriction.

Transformation Investment Programme: Unitemised Savings

As at the date of this report the Council has delivered £7.1m (82%) of the £8.7m annual transformation savings target that was set with £1.6m remaining to be delivered. Looking forward to 2023/24 the MTFP assumes an additional £10m of annual transformation savings (£18.7m cumulative annual total). This further £10m

is identified against a third party spend workstream but the savings are yet to be itemised against relevant budget headings.

Uncertainty

The only certainty at this moment in time is uncertainty. There are currently high levels of financial planning unpredictability caused by the cost-of-living crisis and constant changes and variations to the costs of goods, materials and services required to deliver council operations.

Potential Public Spending Reductions

The Chancellor is due to set out his plans for the public finances, accompanied by an assessment from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), on 31 October 2022. There is currently differing views as to whether the government are likely to stick to the spending plans for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as set out in the Spending Review 2021 (SR21). The indications are that should spending cuts be implemented then local government would not be protected.

Social Care Reforms

These reforms will levy significant new responsibilities on local authorities as well as introducing a cap on care costs. There is a significant risk that the Government grant will be insufficient to cover the full cost associated with these reforms and the staffing needed to enable their delivery.

Background papers

28. February 2022 Budget report to Council.

Appendix 3 s25 Reserves Report CFO.

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=284&MId=4812&Ver=4>

29. June 2022 MTFP Update report to Cabinet.

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=5011&Ver=4>

30. Finance Update (including Quarter One 2022/13 Budget Monitoring) report to 7 September 2022 Cabinet.

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=5013&Ver=4>

31. Addendum to the 7 September 2022 Finance Update (including quarter one budget monitoring) report to Cabinet.

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=5013&Ver=4>

32. Finance Strategy Update report to 28 September 2022 Cabinet.

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=5014&Ver=4>

Appendices

- A Children's Services costs charged to transformation in 2022/23
- B Schedule of Non-Strategic Asset Sales (Confidential)

- C Further Review of Earmarked Reserves
- D 2022/23 Additional Variance Analysis

Financial Strategy 2023/24

Children's Services – Transformation 2022/23 Costs

Council is recommended to charge the following costs to the Children's Services transformation layer in 2022/23.

Amount £	Description	Further Detail
630,000	Eden Brown	
400,000	Cost of Transformation Consultants	
400,000	Project Managers	Building Stronger Foundations workstream
300,000	Practice Learning Reviewers	
75,000	Operations Manager - Mash	
68,000	Head of Service – Quality Assurance	
43,333	Early Help & Partnership Service Manager	
1,916,333	Total Cost to be charged to Transformation	

Consequently this expenditure will support the delivery of the savings within the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

Shown on an incremental basis

2023/24 £000s	2024/25 £000s	Description	Further Details
(250)	(300)	Quality Performance Information & Governance	
(143)		Corporate Parenting	
(131)		Targeted Family Support	
(107)		Contracts & Service Level Agreement	
(106)		Safeguarding & Early Help	
(70)		Spend on P-Cards	
(63)		Service Level Agreement – Safe Families	
(55)		Workforce development refinanced by grants	
(47)		Family Hub	
(12)		Reduce subscription expenditure	
(984)	(300)	Total Savings	

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Financial Strategy 2023/24

Review of Earmarked Reserves (October 2022)

Cabinet is recommended to release the following amounts in support of the 2023/24 proposed budget of the Council.

(£1.5m) Asset Investment Strategy, Rent, Renewals and Repairs Reserve

Resources set aside as part of the process of managing annual fluctuations in the rent, landlord repairs and costs associated with the council's commercial property acquisitions as set out in the Non-Treasury Asset Investment Strategy. Reduction reflects the intent in the financial strategy to dispose of the core non-strategic asset investments. This proposal increases the proposal to increase the reduction from 50% as set out in the September 2022 report to 100%.

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BCP COUNCIL
Budget Variances 2022/23

				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		
Directorate / Service	Type	Description		June Total Variance	September update	September Total	October update	October Total Variance		
Adult Social Care										
Adult Social Care - Services	Cost of living and other service pressures	Third Party Payments	Potential care costs increase following fair cost of care exercise	1,800		1,800		1,800		
		Third Party Payments	Care costs for people with long term conditions	1,729		1,729		1,729		
		Various	Other miscellaneous pressures (each less than £100k)	149		149		149		
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Third Party Payments	Adjustment to the residential and homecare budget from Covid grants	(257)		(257)		(257)		
		Third Party Payments	Care Cost for people with Learning Disabilities and Mental Health needs	(587)		(587)		(587)		
		Income	Estimated additional income from Health for Continuing Health Care eligible people and Section 117	(1,233)		(1,233)		(1,233)		
		Income	Service user contributions	(364)		(364)		(364)		
		Reserves	Utilisation of earmarked reserves specific to the service	(415)		(415)		(415)		
		Employee costs	Directorate unfilled vacancies	(365)		(365)		(365)		
		Review of earmarked reserves	Covid pressures		(113)	(113)		(113)		
		Review of earmarked reserves	Various others each less than £100k		(235)	(235)		(235)		
Adult Social Care - Services Total				457	(348)	109	-	109		
Commissioning Centre of Excellence & Public Health	Cost of living and other service pressures	Third Party Payments	Tricuro contract impact of cost of living including energy prices	171		171		171		
		Various	Other miscellaneous pressures (each less than £100k)	52		52		52		
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Third Party Payments	Tricuro efficiencies to manage energy cost pressure	(171)		(171)		(171)		
		Employee costs	Directorate unfilled vacancies	(52)		(52)		(52)		
Commissioning Centre of Excellence & Public Health Total				-	-	-	-	-		
Adult Social Care Total				457	(348)	109	-	109		
Children's Services										
Children's Services	Cost of living and other service pressures	Third Party Contributions	Health contributions for care placements	1,483		1,483		1,483		
		School Transport	Non-delivery of SEND transport savings assumed in the 2022/23 base budget	750		750		750		
		School Transport	SEND / mainstream transport contract costs due to the cost of living including fuel prices	1,250		1,250		1,250		
		School Transport	Mainstream transport - other reasons	(200)		(200)		(200)		
		Electricity/Gas costs	Assumed price variations	182		182		182		
		Staffing	Overall staffing - continued need for higher than expected levels of agency	1,960		1,960	(886)	1,074		
		Staffing	Continuation of additional purchased team (assumed to end in Sept 2022)	630		630	(630)	-		
		Care	Residential care 16-18 savings not deliverable as project not taken forward	211		211		211		
		Care	UASC - pressure of grant deficit for those aged over 18	708		708		708		
		Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Review of earmarked reserves	Review of Public Health Partnership		(635)	(635)		(635)	
	Children's Services Total				6,974	(635)	6,339	(1,934)	4,405	
	Children's Services Total				6,974	(635)	6,339	(1,934)	4,405	
	Operations									
Housing	Cost of living and other service pressures	Electricity/Gas costs	Assumed price variations	155		155		155		
		Income pressure	Telecare reduction to budgeted income assumed 22/23	250		250		250		
		Expenditure pressure	Council New Build Housing Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS) saving assumed in the 2022/23 base budget	219		219		219		
		Expenditure pressure	Housing related support contracts inflationary clause	150		150		150		
		Service pressures	Housing Options & Partnerships	-	253	253	(99)	154		
		Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Additional one-off dividend from Bournemouth Building Maintenance Ltd	(200)		(200)		(200)	
	Service saving		Harmonisation of recharges to the two HRA neighbourhood accounts	(100)		(100)		(100)		
	Service saving		Homelessness Prevention Grant utilised to cover budget costs	(100)		(100)		(100)		
	Service saving		Others miscellaneous savings (each less than £100k)	(347)	(168)	(515)	122	(393)		
	Housing Total				27	(69)	(42)	23	(19)	
Environment	Cost of living and other service pressures	Income pressure	Crematorium income pressure	600		600		600		
		Expenditure pressure	Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) costs	400		400		400		
		Expenditure pressure	Volume of waste bins that need replacement	200		200		200		
		Expenditure pressure	Waste Disposal Contract	150		150		150		
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Sales of recyclate material – value and volume	(1,000)	(2,149)	(3,149)	49	(3,100)		
		Service saving	Capitalisation of neighbourhood highways costs less associated borrowing costs	(930)		(930)		(930)		
		Service saving	Defer move to HVO fuel across corporate fleet assets (cost avoidance)	(400)		(400)		(400)		
		Service saving	Sales of waste material from the Household Waste Recycling Centres	(100)		(100)		(100)		
		Service saving	Green Waste Income	(278)		(278)		(278)		
		Service saving	Miscellaneous saving less than £100k		(25)	(25)		(25)		
		Service saving	Bereavement Services pricing increase options		(167)	(167)		(167)		
		Service saving	Borrow to finance bin replacements			-	(347)	(347)		
		Environment Total				(1,358)	(2,341)	(3,699)	(298)	(3,997)

				£000 June Total Variance	£000 September update	£000 September Total	£000 October update	£000 October Total Variance		
Directorate / Service	Type		Description							
Destination & Culture	Cost of living and other service pressures	Expenditure pressure	BH Live	436		436		436		
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Cultural Compact	(129)		(129)		(129)		
		Service saving	Festival Coast Live	(125)		(125)		(125)		
		Service saving	Cultural development and networking	(100)		(100)		(100)		
		Service saving	Income from BH Live		(200)	(200)		(200)		
	Review of earmarked reserves	SLM reserve		(560)	(560)		(560)			
Destination & Culture Total				82	(760)	(678)	-	(678)		
Coroners	Cost of living and other service pressures	Expenditure pressure	Increased / complex caseload	100		100		100		
Coroners Total				100	-	100	-	100		
Transport & Engineering	Cost of living and other service pressures	Expenditure pressure	Car Parks, rates increases, card charges and other expenditure items	852		852	75	927		
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Car park income increase to reflect previous year's performance	(691)		(691)	(572)	(1,263)		
		Service saving	Beach car park tariffs increased	(359)		(359)		(359)		
		Service saving	Remove seasonal concession for car parking		(150)	(150)		(150)		
		Service saving	Street lighting (excluding utility pressure)	(132)		(132)		(132)		
		Service saving	Recharging to capital schemes	(340)		(340)		(340)		
		Service saving	FCERM one off surplus savings from reserve that was to be used for Hamworthy sea wall defences		(260)	(260)		(260)		
		Service saving	Capitalisation of asset engineering		(125)	(125)		(125)		
		Service saving	Various others savings each less than £100k		(119)	(119)		(119)		
		Service saving	Additional income from capital recharges				(400)	(400)		
		Transport & Engineering Total				(670)	(654)	(1,324)	(897)	(2,221)
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Utilisation of the Community Prosecutions Earmarked Reserve	(105)		(105)		(105)		
		Service saving	Stopping allocation to development of VRN		(150)	(150)		(150)		
		Service saving	Recharge of community safety salaries to DA Grant			-		-		
		Service saving	Various others savings each less than £100k		(110)	(110)		(110)		
Communities Total				(105)	(260)	(365)	-	(365)		
Operations Directorate General	Cost of living and other service pressures	Electricity/Gas costs	Assumed price variations	3,106		3,106		3,106		
		Expenditure pressure	Other miscellaneous pressures (each less than £100k)	545		545		545		
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Service saving	Other miscellaneous savings (each less than £100k)	(622)		(622)		(622)		
Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations		Service saving	Cleaner, Greener, Safer - Total	(388)		(388)		(388)		
Operations Directorate General Total				2,641	-	2,641	-	2,641		
Operations Total				717	(4,084)	(3,367)	(1,172)	(4,539)		
Resources & Transformation										
Customer & Service Delivery	Cost of living and other service pressures	Electricity/Gas costs	Facilities Management - Assumed price variations	485		485		485		
		Service pressures	Library PFI Contract inflationary clause	150		150		150		
		Service pressures	Other less than £100k	83		83		83		
Customer & Service Delivery Total				718	-	718	-	718		
Resources & Transformation General	Cost of living and other service pressures	Employee costs	Major projects team salaries pressure	135		135		135		
		Third Party Payments	Software contracts inflationary clause - resources	157		157		157		
		Third Party Payments	Software contracts inflationary clause - SVPP, dev, customer	14		14		14		
		Service pressures	Other miscellaneous variances (each less than £100k)	38		38		38		
		Transformation	Shortfall against transformation target	1,595		1,595		1,595		
Resources & Transformation General Total				1,939	-	1,939	-	1,939		
Resources & Transformation Total				2,657	-	2,657	-	2,657		
Central Items										
Central Items	Cost of living and other service pressures	Various	Other miscellaneous pressures (each less than £100k)	(34)		(34)		(34)		
		Employee costs	Assumption that the pay award will be above budget at 4% (May) / £1,925 per FTE (June)	4,139		4,139		4,139		
		Employee costs	Assumed 20% element of transformation related redundancy costs which cannot be funded from the FUCR in line with the regulation	250		250		250		
		Interest	Assumed interest payable on capitalisation direction	436		436		436		
	Savings, Efficiencies and Mitigations	Income	Additional Treasury Management Income due to higher interest rates and the additional money made available to the council in advance of the 2021/22 financial year	(1,320)	(100)	(1,420)	(531)	(1,951)		
		Earmarked Reserve	Release Transformation Mitigation Earmarked Reserve not utilised as planned in 2021/22	(1,949)		(1,949)		(1,949)		
		Earmarked Reserve	Release part of the additional 2021/22 surplus to support the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on the council - at June not needed	-		-		-		
		Grant Income	Contain Outbreak Management Fund resources that the Council is able to carry forward into 2022/23 to fund previously planned expenditure	(1,437)		(1,437)		(1,437)		
		Grant Income	Anticipation that the final reconciliation of the Covid 19 Sales, Fees and Charges grant claim will be approved by government	(1,402)		(1,402)		(1,402)		
		Financial Services	Stour Valley and Poole Partnership Revenue and Benefits (SVPP) – release of the 2021/22 operational reserve	(435)		(435)		(435)		
		Contingency	Contingency released to support in-year position	(2,256)	70	(2,186)		(2,186)		
		Beach Huts	Beach hut income as not being transferred to a special purpose vehicle	(3,700)		(3,700)		(3,700)		
		Corporate Provisions	Bournemouth Development Company (BDC) released portion of provision	(1,000)		(1,000)		(1,000)		
		Minimum Revenue Provision	Winter Gardens finance loan		(304)	(304)		(304)		
		Transformation	Remove 2022/23 share of redundancy costs that cannot be charged to transformation		(250)	(250)		(250)		
		Employee costs	Removal of 1.25% National Insurance Levy from November 2022		(583)	(583)		(583)		
		Electricity/Gas costs	Utility Cost Forecast variation based on Government support package				(100)	(100)		
		Central Items Total				(8,708)	(1,167)	(9,875)	(631)	(10,506)
		Central Items Total				(8,708)	(1,167)	(9,875)	(631)	(10,506)
		Grand Total				2,097	(6,234)	(4,137)	(3,737)	(7,874)

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AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



Report subject	Review of the Council's Constitution – Recommendations of the Constitution Review Working Group
Meeting date	27 October 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The report summarises the issues considered by the Constitution Review Working Group and sets out a series of recommendations arising from the Working Group for consideration by the Committee.</p> <p>Any recommendations arising from the Committee shall be referred to full Council for adoption.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the proposed amendments to the Constitution, as detailed in the appendices to this report, be approved; (b) any necessary and consequential technical and formatting related updates and revisions to the Constitution be made by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the powers delegated.
Reason for recommendations	To make appropriate updates and revisions to the Constitution following consideration by the Working Group

Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant (Chief Executive)
Report Authors	Richard Jones (Head of Democratic Services)
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. The Terms of Reference of the Audit and Governance Committee include 'Maintaining an overview of the Council's Constitution and governance arrangements in all respects'.
2. In discharge of this responsibility the Committee established a Constitution Review Working Group of five of its Councillors. The current members of the Working Group are Councillor Fear (Chairman), Councillor D Butt (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Beesley, Brooke and Cox.
3. Since its establishment, the Working Group has continued to meet on a regular scheduled basis and completed the first phase of its work at the end of 2021. The Group receives advice from the Monitoring Officer and from the Head of Democratic Services. From time to time, as required, Officers and Members with specialist responsibility have been invited to have an involvement.
4. The Working Group has considered suggestions received from a wide variety and range of sources including input from Councillors and from Officers. Prior to commencement of its work, the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee wrote to all members of Council asking them to submit items for discussion and consideration. This invitation has been repeated from time to time as the Group has progressed through its programme of work.

Format

5. Requests from Councillors and officers previously considered by the Working Group, referenced to the Audit and Governance Committee and, where appropriate, debated and approved by Council have been incorporated into the Constitution.
6. The current version of the Constitution was last updated to reflect any changes agreed by the Council on 10 May 2022.
7. A number of further proposed changes have subsequently been considered by the Working Group and are now brought before the Committee for consideration. If supported these will be recommended to Council for adoption.
8. The proposed changes are shown with track changes (in red) to assist in identifying the proposed changes. Text shown in blue shows consequential formatting changes only and do not require consideration by the Committee.

Issue 1 - Powers of the Head of Paid Service in relation to contracted workers

9. The Working Group considered a request deferred from the first review relating to the scheme of delegation and in particular the extent to which it applied to contract and agency workers.

10. The Constitution provides in Part 3B (Scheme of Delegation to Officers) [from page 3-26] specific delegations to the Chief Executive in relation to Human Resources issues [page 3-33]

Human Resource matters

16. *To deal with all matters relating to the paid employment of Council officers.*
17. *To determine any change to the whole or any part of the employee establishment / structure of the Council including power to incur expenditure subject to prior consultation with the Section 151 Officer.*
18. *To determine the composition of any panel required to consider any employee issue, subject to consultation with the Officer responsible for Human Resources.*
19. *To determine the grading and regrading of posts provided that funding for any associated costs is available.*
11. By contrast, contractors and agency workers are governed by the contractual arrangements under which they are appointed. Their employment will be regulated by the terms of those contracts and not under the powers granted to the Chief Executive as 'Head of Paid Service' that govern staff directly employed by BCP Council.
12. NO CHANGES to the Constitution were considered necessary in response to this matter.

Issue 2 - Issues around standing to speak at Council and associated etiquette

13. The Working Group considered matters relating to the conduct and behaviours of Councillors in formal meetings
14. Article 2.3.7 (Role of Councillors) in Part 2 of the Constitution [page 2-5] sets out, amongst other key responsibilities of Councillors, the responsibility to:-
- 2.3.7. *Maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics and observe the Council's Code of Conduct for Elected Councillors.*
15. More specifically, Article 5.4 of Part 2 [page 2-11] sets out the powers of the Chairman of Council at Council meetings as follows:

Article 5 Role of the Chair of Council

5.4. Council Role

5.4.1. The Chair shall have the following responsibilities:

- a) *upholding and promoting the purposes of this Constitution and interpreting it, taking into account appropriate advice when necessary;*
- b) *presiding over meetings of the Full Council to ensure that business is carried out transparently, efficiently and effectively whilst preserving the rights of Councillors and the interests of members of the public;*
- c) *ensuring that at Council meetings matters of concern to local communities can be debated through the appropriate mechanisms;*

- d) *ensuring that Councillors who are not on the Cabinet or who do not hold the Chair of a main Committee are able to hold those office holders to account;*
- e) *promoting public involvement in the Council's affairs and acting as a contact between members of the public and organisations and the Council;*
- f) *undertaking such other roles as may be placed upon the Chair from time to time by the Council.*

16. Part 4D [Meeting Procedure Rules] makes the following provision within Rule 24 [page 4-54] for responding to instances of disorderly conduct by Councillors

24. *Disorderly conduct by Councillors*

24.1. *If at a meeting any Councillor, in the opinion of the person presiding, misconducts themselves in any way, the person presiding shall warn them. If the misconduct continues, the person presiding or any other Councillor may move "That the Councillor be not further heard for the item being debated" or "That the Councillor be not further heard for the remainder of the meeting". The motion, if seconded, shall be put and determined without discussion.*

24.2. *If the Councillor continues the misconduct after a motion under the Rule 24.1 of this Part 4D has been carried, the person presiding may: either move "That the Councillor do leave the meeting" (in which case the motion shall be put and determined without seconding or discussion); or adjourn the meeting.*

24.3. *In the event of general disturbance by Councillors at any meeting which, in the opinion of the person presiding, renders the due and orderly dispatch of business impossible, the person presiding, will have the power to adjourn the meeting.*

17. The Working Group were of the view that the existing provisions provided a framework that was sufficient for purpose and that NO CHANGES to the Constitution were necessary at this time.

Other etiquette issues

18. The Working Group further considered other etiquette related issues including the entering and exiting of Councillors during meetings, the requirement to stand and the consumption of refreshments within the Chamber.

19. Although no specific changes were proposed to limit Councillors from leaving, entering or consuming refreshments during meetings, as this could have equality implications for medical or other personal reasons, it was felt that such actions should be discrete and courteous to the Chair. Furthermore, it was considered that the introduction of scheduled comfort breaks may provide assistance to Councillors.

20. There is a very specific provision in Part 4D Rule 13.4 within the Constitution [page 4-47] relating to standing to speak at Council meetings. If a Councillor, for any reason has limited mobility and was unable to stand, the Chair would have to exercise their discretion to grant leave to remain seated. For the avoidance of doubt it is suggested that the additional words, underlined, be added to Rule 13.4

13.4. *When speaking at the Council meeting a Councillor shall stand, if they are able, and address the Chair. While a Councillor is*

speaking the other Councillors will remain seated, unless rising on a point of order or in personal explanation.

21. It is RECOMMENDED that :-

- a. the amendment to Procedure Rule 13.4 (Only one Councillor to stand at a time), as set out above, be approved;
- b. a new procedure rule 6 be inserted into the Part 4D (Meeting Procedure Rules) relating to duration of meetings to read:

“6.1 Upon a meeting duration reaching two hours without a previous adjournment, the Chair shall, unless in their opinion it is expedient to continue to the end of remaining business, adjourn the meeting at the end of the item under discussion for a short adjournment the duration of which is at the Chair’s discretion but must not exceed 30 minutes.”

“6.2. Rule 6.1 does not preclude a Motion without Notice being moved under Procedure Rule 10 to adjourn a meeting.”

Issue 3 - Process for interpretation of Procedure Rules - who has the final say

22. This issue was raised in the previous stages of the review and was carried forward.

23. Part 4D (Meeting Procedure Rules) makes the following provision within Rule 21[page 4-53]:

21. Interpretation of Procedure Rules

The ruling of the person presiding as to the construction or application of any of these Procedure Rules, or as to any proceedings of the Council, shall not be challenged at any meeting.

24. Article 11.3 in Part 2 of the Constitution (Functions of the Monitoring Officer) [page 2-23] sets out, amongst other functions of the Monitoring Officer, the function of providing advice:

11.3 (f) providing advice. The Monitoring Officer will provide advice to the Council on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues and will support and advise Councillors and Officers in their respective roles;

25. It is suggested that these existing provisions provide a framework that is sufficient for purpose but for the avoidance of doubt it is suggested that the additional words, underlined below, be added to Rule 21. This change reflects the role of the Monitoring Officer as identified in Article 11.

21. Interpretation of Procedure Rules

Subject to taking advice from the Monitoring Officer or their nominated representative, *the ruling of the person presiding as to the construction or application of any of these Procedure Rules, or as to any proceedings of the Council, shall not be challenged at any meeting.*

26. It is **RECOMMENDED** that the amendment to Procedure Rule 21 (Interpretation of Procedure Rules) of Part 4D, as set out above, be approved.

Issue 4 - Question by Councillors at Council Meetings - Clarification about time-limits for asking and responding to supplementary questions

27. In Part 4D (Meeting Procedure Rules) Rule 11 [page 4-40] there are set out nine sub-rules about questions by Councillors at Council meetings. The Chairman of the Council (in consultation with the Monitoring Officer) has a range of powers which are set out in sub-rule 11.4 whereby he or she may reject a question. Additionally, sub-rule 11.7 provides that

11.7. Following the answer to each question, the questioner may ask a supplementary question which relates to the initial answer. A reply may not be given if the question is: not related to the initial answer; is unduly lengthy; or is inappropriate. The Councillor answering the supplementary question will decide whether or not to reply.

28. Although the principal elements of this rule was considered sufficient, it was felt that the supplementary question requirements could be re-enforced.
29. The Working Group also considered that the 3 minutes time limit for the length of speeches should also be applied to the responses to questions.
30. With a couple of minor changes which are shown in the appendices to this report, it was considered by the Working Group that the existing rule 11 was sufficient to allow for proper control, particularly by the Chair, over how these questions are dealt with at a meeting.

31. It is RECOMMENDED that:-

- a. Procedure rule 11.7 (General Questions by Councillors at Council meetings) be amended to read:

“11.7. Following the answer to each question, the questioner may only ask one supplementary question which must relate to the initial answer. A reply may not be given if the question is: not related to the initial answer; is unduly lengthy; or is inappropriate. The Councillor answering the supplementary question will decide whether or not to reply.”

- b. Procedure rule 13.5 (Content and Length of Speeches, Question and Responses to Questions) be amended to read:-

“13.5. A Councillor will confine their speech to the question under discussion, a personal explanation or a point of order. Except as indicated below, in the case of speeches made by Councillors when the Council is agreeing a budget, or where the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee otherwise agrees, no speech, or question or response to a question will exceed three minutes.”

Issue 5 – Arrangements for enabling voting from the gallery in the Bournemouth Civic Centre Council Chamber to ensure that voting is clearly visible to the public

32. In normal circumstances, outside of special and exceptional situations such as the pandemic, it was acknowledged that best practice would be for participating

Councillors to be in the well of the Council Chamber and there should be no need for the provision of 'overflow' seating for Councillors in a gallery.

33. The ongoing refurbishment of the physical democratic meeting arrangements within the Civic Centre campus (including improved seating and audio visual) will greatly improve the position moving forward.
34. The planned improvements will also potentially include the facility for transparent electronic voting from fixed 'delegate units'. At that time voting by this method would not be available from within the public gallery.
35. The Working Group considered that the current arrangements whereby Councillors may sit within the public gallery space, should continue until the new systems are installed. NO CHANGES to the Constitution were considered necessary at this time.

Issue 6 - Categories of Officers falling within the definition of 'Senior Officers' for disciplinary rules purposes

36. The Working Group was advised of an identified inconsistency within the Constitution in defining the categories of those officers who fall within the disciplinary hearing rules for Senior Officers.
37. This could be resolved by bringing into line the terms of reference of the Investigatory Disciplinary Committee in Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) Paragraph 8 [page 3- 18] and the Appeals Committee in Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) Paragraph 7 [page 3-18] and aligning these provisions within the definitions to the 2001 Regulations (as amended) within Part 4E (Officer Employment Procedure Rules) Rule 5 [page 4-63].
38. **It is RECOMMENDED that the terms of reference for the Appeals Committee and the Investigation and Disciplinary Committee be amended to include the words “, as defined in The Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England) Regulations 2001 (as amended)”, after the references to ‘relevant Statutory Officers’.**

Issue 7 – Thresholds/Levels of Financial Delegation

39. The Working Group considered a request to review the financial approval limits within the Financial Regulations.
40. The Working Group was advised that these matters were the subject of an annual review of the Financial Regulations and it was considered appropriate to include this specific request as part of that separate review process.
41. NO CHANGES to the Constitution were considered necessary at this time.

Issue 8 – Public Participation - Public Questions and Statements

42. Rule 12 of the Part 4D (Meeting Procedure Rules) sets out the rules for public participation at meetings. It deals with Public Questions (Rule 12.4) [page 4-42]; Public Statements (Rule 12.5) [page 4-43] and with petitions (Rule 12.6) [page 4-44].
43. Experience of the application of this Rule has given rise to a number of issues and points of clarification and these were discussed at length by the Working Group. Although the majority view is reflected in the recommendations, there was not a consensus within the Working Group on all the points raised.

44. The issues upon which changes to the Constitution are recommended relate to the following points:-
- (a) Clarity regarding who may respond to questions;
 - (b) The revision of the deadline for the submission of questions by the public to allow additional time;
 - (c) Formalised extension to the deadline for the submission of questions where a report is delay in publication;
 - (d) Clarity and consistent application regarding the matters to which questions and statements may relate at cabinet, committees and sub-committees and associated limits;
 - (e) Clarity regarding the application of the 100 word count limit for questions and statements;
 - (f) Clarity and consistency regarding the nomination of others to read questions and statements;
 - (g) Clarity regarding the submission of petitions to meetings other than Council;
 - (h) The removal of the petition organisers right of reply, which has proved impracticable at recent Council meetings where formal Motions have been submitted.

45. It is RECOMMENDED that the changes to the Public Participation rules, as detailed, in the appendices submitted to this report, be approved.

Issue 9 – Access to document – Overview and Scrutiny Board and Committees

46. The Working Group was advised that the right of the Chair, or in the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to see papers in relation to private decisions of the Cabinet before the decision is made should be subject to Part 4A Rule 24.5 [page 4-17].
47. This provides that, where the Leader so determines, a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees will not be entitled to any document that is in draft form or to the advice of a political advisor.
48. Due to the previous redrafting of the Constitution and the introduction of a new sub-heading these provisions had become disjointed and required the cross-reference to provide clarity.
49. For information, Rule 24.4 enables members of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be able to see information relevant to their work of overview and scrutiny albeit that it is exempt or confidential.

50. It is RECOMMENDED that Procedure Rule 24.3 (Part 4A) be amended to read:-

24.3 Subject to Rule 24.4 and 24.5 of this Part 4A the Chair, or in the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is entitled to see papers in relation to private decisions of the Cabinet before the decision is made.

Issue 10 – Prevent Channel – Statutory functions to be included within Constitution

51. The Working Group was advised that the Council's Community Safety professionals were recommending that best practice was to reference within the Constitution the Council's responsibilities in relation to counter-terrorism and to the 'Prevent' channel. National benchmarking now looks to establish whether these functions are established within a Council's governance framework.

52. Home Office advice states that:-

“Constitutions should 'normally list or detail (at a high level) the statutory functions of the Local Authority and any delegations made to fulfil those requirements (Local Government Act 2000). Each Constitution is structured differently, so we are asking Local Authorities to take a view on the most appropriate place to reflect Prevent/Channel statutory functions and for this to feature within any scheduled update/review of the Constitution. There is no requirement to initiate an update to the Constitution outside of this normal scheduled cycle of review.”

53. Article 12.1 in Part 2 of the Constitution (Decision Making) [page 12-1] sets out a list of principles which should apply and underpin decisions made by the Council at every level of the decision-making process. It was suggested that the general responsibilities under the Prevent and counter-terrorism agenda be added to the list as a new part (j) to read:-

j) take into account the Council's statutory duties and responsibilities relating to counter-terrorism, prevention of violent extremism and the Prevent channel.

54. It is RECOMMENDED that Article 12.1 (Decision Making Principles) be amended to include the general responsibilities under the Prevent and counter-terrorism agenda as detailed above.

Issue 11 - Co-opted and other non-Councillor members of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (including Young People members)

55. The Working Group was advised that the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee had requested that, although non voting, the significant role of Youth Parliament representatives in the work of the Committee should be formally recognised within the Constitution.

56. To recognise the role of the Youth Parliament representatives, it was proposed to make appropriate changes to Part 2 (Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny) in relation to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Part 3A (Responsibility for Functions) for the Committee. Details of the proposed changes are shown within the appendices to this report in the respective parts.

57. It is RECOMMENDED that the changes to Part 2, Article 6 and Part 3A, relating to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as detailed, in the appendices submitted to this report, be approved.

Issue 12 – Planning process governance issues

58. Councillor Brooke had highlighted a number of practical issues relating to the planning process and these were set out for the Working Group.

59. However, it was accepted that these were not matters which related directly to specific sections of the Constitution although Part 6 (Codes and Protocols) includes at Schedules 3 [from page 6-24] the Local Code of Best Practice relating to Planning Matters and at Schedule 5 [from page 6-32] the Local Protocol for Speaking and Statements at Planning Committee.
60. The Head of Audit and Management Assurance provided an update on action taken in response including updates to the planning portal.
61. The Working Group expressed satisfaction with the way that this was being progressed and the proposal that this should be a subject for future discussion at the Audit and Governance Committee. NO CHANGES to the Constitution were considered necessary at this time.

Issue 13 – Voting by Councillors who have not been present for the whole of the relevant discussion and debate

62. The Working Group was advised that a Councillor had suggested that in all decision making meetings a Councillor should only be able to vote on an item if they have been present for the entirety of the debate on that particular item. The member highlights recent council meetings which attracted significant press attention.
63. Part 4 (Procedural Rules) includes various provisions about voting practice and procedures, however, none of these make specific reference to attendance requirements.
64. The Working Group was advised that there was no legislative requirement for a Councillor to be present in the chamber/meeting room for the whole of the debate on an item for any ordinary meeting of Council, Cabinet or non-regulatory committees. There is a responsibility placed on each Councillor, however, to properly inform themselves and ensure that they are sufficiently apprised of any matter before voting.
65. Whether or not to include such a requirement in the BCP Council Constitution would therefore be a matter for local choice.
66. The Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services had canvassed their respective professional groups and all those who responded confirm that the Constitutions of their councils did not include such a provision for all meetings. Although it is acknowledged that some other councils may have such a provision in their Constitutions. The Working Group was advised that those Monitoring Officers who responded have cautioned against such a provision for the following reasons:-
 1. Requiring a Councillor to be present for the whole of the debate or be barred from voting could disenfranchise Councillors who may arrive at the meeting a few minutes late due to unforeseen circumstances, for example, trouble finding parking.
 2. An item under discussion would need to be interrupted each time a Councillor needed to exit the room for whatever reason, thereby prolonging meetings and interrupting the flow of debate.
 3. The business of the Council might be slowed down, if political groups wanted to ensure that certain Councillors would and could be present for the whole of meetings, especially if they are adjourned and reconvened at a later date.
 4. In a council of the size of BCP, it would be difficult for officers to track arrivals and departures to the level of detail required.

5. Any of the above may be susceptible to manipulation for political reasons.
67. The Working Group did not support the introduction of restrictive rules relating to voting, however, it wished to re-enforce the need for Councillors to be properly informed and proposed the insertion of a new rule under voting to read:-
- “It is the responsibility of each Councillor to properly inform themselves and ensure that they are sufficiently apprised of any matter before voting.”*
- 68. It is RECOMMENDED that Part 4D (Voting) be amended to include the procedure rule as detailed above.**

Issue 14 – Attendance of Councillors at Meetings

69. The Working Group was advised that a Councillor had submitted a request to consider issues relating to attendance, how non-attendance is recorded, whether reasons for absence should be captured, the application of substitution representation and potential imbalance of representation.
70. Part 4D (Meeting Procedure Rules) includes a single reference to records of attendance which requires the Monitoring Officer to keep a record of Councillors attending any meeting of the Council, the Cabinet, any Committee, or Sub-Committee.
71. Attendance at meetings is recorded in the Committee Management system and statistical data is produced for each Councillor on the web site. Prior to all meetings, members of that meeting will be shown as ‘Expected’. Following the meeting, the attendance records are updated for the production of the minutes and are typically marked as one of the following from a drop-down list.
- Present, as expected
 - Present, as expected, virtual
 - Present, as substitute
 - In attendance
 - In attendance, virtual
 - Apologies
 - Apologies, sent representative
 - Apologies due to Council Business
 - Absent
72. There are other options available for pre- and post-meeting status but these are infrequently or never used for Councillors. The system is capable of recording specific reasons for absence via a further drop-down list, however, this would be an additional burden on the Democratic Services team, is not a requirement of any regulations and would serve little or no benefit to council business.
73. The Working Group was advised that where a Councillor does not present their apologies for a meeting, the attendance records will be recorded as ‘Absent’. Where Councillors are substituted, the substitute Councillor will be recorded as ‘Present, as substitute’ and the original member will be recorded as ‘Apologies, sent representative’.
74. The remaining points raised related to the consequences of political balance rules which is prescribed by regulations and cannot be over-ridden by the Constitution. NO CHANGES to the Constitution were proposed by the Working Group.

Issue 15 – Cabinet Plus / Lead Members on Scrutiny

75. A member requested the Working Group to review the arrangements for Lead Members serving on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and the potential conflict of roles.
76. Part 2, Article 6 (Overview and Scrutiny), paragraph 6.4.2 [page 2-13] relating to membership, states that *“As they have no delegated powers to take individual decisions, Lead Members of the Cabinet may be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees only where there is no conflict between their Cabinet support work and the matters under consideration by Overview and Scrutiny.”*
77. The Working Group considered that the existing provisions provided sufficient clarity and NO CHANGES to the Constitution were proposed.

Issue 16 Eligibility for election of office

78. Part 4D, Rule 22 (Substitute Members), paragraph 22.3 [page 4-53], states that “The outgoing member shall cease to be the Political Group’s representative on that Committee or Sub-Committee for the duration of that meeting or any adjournment of it, and that substitute Councillor shall become the representative on the Committee or Sub-Committee for the same period.”
79. As a consequence of this provision, a Councillor who is substituted for a meeting is not a voting member of the relevant body for the duration of the meeting and as such is not eligible for election to the position of chair or vice-chair of that body.
80. Part 4D, Rule (Election of Chair and Vice-Chair) [page 4-36], does not include any reference to eligibility and it is proposed that a new paragraph be added as follows:-
 - 2.5 *The meeting may elect, from among the voting members, a Councillor to the office of Chair and Vice-Chair. For the avoidance of doubt, a Councillor who is absent and substituted for the meeting at which the election takes place is not eligible for nomination.*
 - 2.6 *In the event that an ineligible Councillor is elected to office, that Councillor shall not be permitted to take office and the candidate with the second-highest number of votes, where a ballot is conducted, shall be duly elected.*
81. **It is RECOMMENDED that Part 4D (Election of Chair and Vice-Chair) be amended as detailed in the appendices to this report.**

Issue 17 – Planning Committee Delegations

82. The Working Group was advised that the Council’s Constitution at Part 6 (Code of Conduct and Protocols), included at Schedule 3, a Local Code of Best Practice relating to Planning Matters.
83. This Code includes specific reference to the importance of early engagement of Councillors in planning issues relating to a potential planning application and how this can be a positive contribution to helping ensure the sustainable development of the area meeting the need of the community.
84. Despite this provision, no delegated authority exists to initiate this engagement and the Working Group received a request to amend Part 3A (Delegation of Functions) to grant authority to the Planning Committee deal with these matters. The proposed

changes to the Constitution are set out in Part 3A, paragraph 2.4 in the appendices to this report.

- 85. It is RECOMMENDED that the proposed amendment to add a paragraph to Part 3A, paragraph 2.4 to the responsibilities of the Planning Committee, as detailed in the appendices to this report, be approved.**

Summary of financial implications

86. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

87. The Constitution of the BCP Council complies with relevant legislation.

Summary of human resources implications

88. There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

89. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

90. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

91. The Constitution of the BCP Council sets out the rights of public access to the democratic process.

Summary of risk assessment

92. The Constitution is a legally required document which prescribes the procedural and democratic arrangements for the proper governance of the Council.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Draft Revision Extracts to Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the Constitution.

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PART 2

ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

6.4.3. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee may not be a member of any Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This will maintain independence between the two functions of audit and scrutiny, in line with good practice.

6.5. Substitutes

If a member is unable to attend a meeting their Group may arrange for a substitute to attend in their place in accordance with Part 4 of this Constitution.

6.6. Members of the Public

6.6.1. Members of the public can be invited to attend and contribute to meetings as required to provide insight to a matter under discussion. This may include but is not limited to subject experts with relevant specialist knowledge or expertise, representatives of stakeholder groups or service users. Members of the public will not have voting rights.

6.7. Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6.7.1. As the functions and duties of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee include making decisions in relation to the Council's education responsibilities, the Committee must include two church and two parent governor representatives as voting members in addition to the Councillors. Parent governor membership shall extend to a maximum period of four years and no less than two years. These co-opted education representatives are entitled to vote on any item relating to education.

6.7.2. The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee may also co-opt one representative from the Academy Trusts within the local authority area, to attend meetings and vote on matters relating to education.

~~6.7.2.~~6.7.3. The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee may also co-opt on to the Committee two representatives of The Youth Parliament and, although they will not be entitled to vote, will ensure that their significant contribution to the work of the Committee is recognised and valued.

6.8. Conduct of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings

Conduct of the proceedings at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings shall be in accordance with the Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4C of this Constitution.

6.9. Commissioned Work

6.9.1. In addition to committee meetings, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees may commission work to be undertaken in the following ways as it considers necessary after taking into account the availability of resources, the work programme and the matter under review. Each Committee is limited to two commissions at a time to ensure availability of resources.

- a) **Working Groups** – a small group of Councillors and Officers gathered to consider a specific issue and report back to a full

Article 12 - Decision Making

12.1. Principles of Decision Making

When the Council makes a decision it will:

- a) be clear about what the Council wants to happen and how it will be achieved;
- b) ensure that the decision and the decision-making process are lawful;
- c) consider the Public Sector Equality Duty and its obligations under the Human Rights Act;
- d) consult properly and take professional advice from Officers;
- e) have due regard to appropriate national, strategic, local policy and guidance;
- f) ensure the action is proportionate to what the Council wants to happen;
- g) ensure the decisions are not unreasonably delayed;
- h) explain what options were considered and give the reasons for the decision; ~~and~~
- i) make the decision public unless there are good reasons for it not to be; and
- h)i) take into account the Council's statutory duties and responsibilities relating to counter-terrorism, prevention of violent extremism and the Prevent channel.

12.2. Responsibility for Decision Making

The Council will prepare and keep up to date a Functions Scheme. The Functions Scheme will show what types of decisions can be made and who or which part of the Council can make them.

12.3. Types of Decision

12.3.1. Decisions Reserved to the Full Council

Decisions reserved to Full Council in the Functions Scheme will be made by Full Council only. Other non-executive decisions are delegated to Council Committees, Sub-Committees and to Officers as set out in the Functions Scheme.

12.3.2. Key Decisions

A Key Decision, which must be included in the Cabinet Forward Plan, is a Leader or Cabinet decision which is likely to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a) it will result in the Council on its own or in partnership with other organisations spending or saving £500,000 or more, with the exception of operational expenditure or savings identified within the agreed Service Plan and Budget; and/or

PART 3A

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS

2.3. The call-in protocol referred to at 2.2.7 above is as follows:

- 2.3.1. a formal referral request must be submitted on the Council Planning Committee referral form;
- 2.3.2. all parts of the planning committee referral request form must be completed for the request to be considered as valid and compliant with the provisions set out in paragraph 2.2.7 of Part 3A of the Constitution;
- 2.3.3. the form must set out the material planning reasons for the referral that warrant the application being considered by Planning Committee;
- 2.3.4. the ward Councillor must have first discussed the planning application with the planning case officer before submitting a Planning Committee referral form. This discussion should take place within the initial planning application notification period. In these discussions, and prior to submitting the form, the ward Councillor must advise the officer whether they are considering submitting a Planning Committee referral request form so the officer can update the ward Councillor on progress before a recommendation is made.
- 2.3.5. to ensure resilience that the planning committee referral requests are formally received by the case officers, request forms should be submitted by email to both the case officer and the relevant office inbox as follows:
 - a) planning.bournemouth@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
 - b) planning.christchurch@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
 - c) planning.poole@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
- 2.3.6. Once the notification period has expired and the officer has not had any contact from a ward Councillor in respect of a potential planning committee referral, Councillors are to be aware that officers are able to make decisions on planning applications under delegated powers in accordance with the Council scheme of delegation.

2.4. The Planning Committee has power to receive and provide comment on presentations relating to pre-application planning proposals that the relevant senior planning officer considers appropriate having regard to the Council's Local Code of Best Practice relating to Planning Matters and any extant guidelines agreed by the Planning Committee.

3. Licensing Committee

- 3.1. All matters relating to Licensing functions as set out in the relevant legislation are delegated to Officers pursuant to the Chief Executive's Scheme of Delegation to determine other than those matters set out below which shall be the responsibility of the Licensing Committee.

- recommendations to the Council or the Cabinet to assist in the development of future policies and strategies;
- 4.1.5. assisting the Council in the development of the Budget and Policy Framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- 4.1.6. monitoring the implementation of decisions to examine their effect and outcomes;
- 4.1.7. referring to full Council, the Cabinet or appropriate Committee/Sub-Committee any matter which, following scrutiny, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee determines should be brought to the attention of the Council, Cabinet or the Committee or Sub-Committee;
- 4.1.8. preparation, implementation, monitoring and review of a work programme;
- 4.1.9. establishing such commissioned work as appropriate after taking into account the availability of resources, the work programme and the matter under review;
- 4.1.10. maintaining oversight and establishing priorities for the training needs of the Committee.

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 4.2. The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee will carry out those duties as outlined in 4.1.1 to 4.1.10 above, in relation to matters regarding health, adult social care, public health, community care and any other issues relating to the delivery of health services by health service providers and NHS bodies affecting the residents of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.
- 4.3. This Committee carries out all the Council's overview and scrutiny functions relating to health as required by legislation.

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 4.4. The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for carrying out those duties as outlined in 4.1.1 to 4.1.10 above, in relation to matters which relate to the delivery of services for children in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.
- 4.5. Education co-optees will be appointed to this Committee in line with legislation, and as set out within Article 6 of this Constitution.

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 4.6. The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for carrying out those duties as outlined in 4.1.1 to 4.1.10 above, in relation to matters such as regeneration, strategic planning, house building, homes, environment, cleansing, waste, transport and sustainability.
- 4.7. This Committee carries out all the Council's overview and scrutiny functions relating to flood risk management as required by legislation.

- 6.1.1. monitoring the Code of Conduct and arrangements for dealing with complaints against Councillors and making recommendations to Full Council on any changes to the Code;
- 6.1.2. promoting and maintaining the Council's responsibilities for ethical governance and high standards of conduct;
- 6.1.3. ensuring that appropriate advice and training is provided to Councillors in respect of ethical governance and the Code of Conduct;
- 6.1.4. supporting the Monitoring Officer in discharging their duties in relation to the conduct and behaviour of Councillors;
- 6.1.5. promoting the observance of the ethical governance agenda within Parish and Town Councils in its area;
- 6.1.6. considering the outcome of investigations undertaken pursuant to the arrangements for dealing with allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct;
- 6.1.7. making arrangements for suitable liaison as appropriate with the statutory Independent Persons in the course of dealing with an allegation of breach of the Code of Conduct; and
- 6.1.8. considering an Annual Report on Gifts and Hospitality Registers relating to Councillors.

7. Appeals Committee

- 7.1. The Appeals Committee will have responsibility for determining:
 - 7.1.1. appeals by parents and students against the Council's decision in relation to student awards;
 - 7.1.2. appeals by parents against the Council's decision on boarding education matters and other pupil benefits;
 - 7.1.3. appeals by parents against the Council's decision in relation to the provision of transport in cases of need, special circumstance or safety;
 - 7.1.4. appeals against the Council's decision on the provision of transport to denominational schools and colleges; and
 - 7.1.5. appeals relating to disciplinary action against, and in respect of, the relevant Statutory Officers, as defined in The Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England) Regulations 2001 (as amended).

8. Investigation and Disciplinary Committees

Investigation and Disciplinary Committee (IDC)

- 8.1. The Investigation and Disciplinary Committee will have responsibility for disciplinary and dismissal matters which relate to the relevant statutory officers, as defined in The Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)

Regulations 2001 (as amended). The relevant officers being the Head of Paid Service; Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer.

- 8.2. The IDC shall undertake the responsibilities required pursuant to the relevant 2015 Regulations agreed Guidance and Model Procedure issued by the relevant national JNC or other relevant body that may exist in future.
- 8.3. The IDC is to be a Committee consisting of six councillors and must include the Leader of the Council and another member of the Cabinet.
- 8.4. In the case of a complaint against:
 - 8.4.1. a relevant Officer, the decision whether to refer the matter to the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee will be delegated to the Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer;
 - 8.4.2. the Head of Paid Service, the decision to refer the matter to the IDC will be delegated to the Head of Paid Service; and
 - 8.4.3. the Monitoring Officer or the Chief Finance Officer, the decision to be made in consultation in every case with the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development.
- 8.5. The IDC will have delegated responsibility for the suspension of the relevant Officers. In the event of the need for urgency, this function is delegated to the Head of Paid Service (in the case of the Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer) or the Monitoring Officer (in the case of the Head of Paid Service) in consultation with the Chair of the IDC.
- 8.6. The relevant officers will be given the same right to be accompanied at any disciplinary hearing as all Council employees. Additionally, this will include the right to be accompanied by a legal representative at their own cost.

Independent Panel

- 8.7. The three Independent Persons appointed by the Council pursuant to the Localism Act requirements shall act as the Independent Panel in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015).

9. Leader and Cabinet – Executive Functions

Discharge of Executive Functions

- 9.1. All executive authority flows through the Leader who retains the authority to make any executive decisions and subject to this may delegate decision-making to:
 - 9.1.1. the Cabinet;
 - 9.1.2. a member of the Cabinet;
 - 9.1.3. a Committee of the Cabinet;

PART 4A

ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

- 23.6. As soon as reasonably practicable after an Officer has made a decision under an express delegation from Full Council, its Committees, Sub Committees or any Joint Committee in which the Council is involved or under a general delegation from one of these bodies where the effect of the decision is to grant a permission or licence, affect the rights of an individual or award a contract or incur expenditure, which in either case materially affects the Council's position, a written statement will be prepared including:
 - 23.6.1. a record of the decision including the date it was made;
 - 23.6.2. a record of the reasons for the decision;
 - 23.6.3. details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Officer when making the decision; and
 - 23.6.4. a record of the name of any Councillor or local government body who has declared an interest (for decisions taken under an express delegation).
- 23.7. Any record prepared in accordance with Rule 23.6 of this Part 4A together with any background papers considered by the Officer and relevant to the decision will be available for public inspection on the Council's website.
- 23.8. Rules 23.6 to 23.7 of this Part 4A do not apply to:
 - 23.8.1. routine administrative and organisational decisions;
 - 23.8.2. decisions on operational matters such as day to day variations in services;
 - 23.8.3. decisions if the whole or part of the record contains Confidential or Exempt Information; or
 - 23.8.4. decisions that are already required to be published by other legislation, provided the record published includes the date the decision was taken and the reasons for the decision.

24. Access to documents - Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Right to Copies of Documents

- 24.1. Subject to Rule 24.3 of this Part 4A, any member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees is entitled to copies of any document which is in the possession or control of the Leader, the Cabinet including its Committees and Sub-Committees, and which contains material relating to:
 - 24.1.1. any business transacted at a public or private meeting of the Cabinet including any of its Committees and Sub-Committees;
 - 24.1.2. any decision taken by an individual member of the Cabinet; or
 - 24.1.3. any executive decision taken by an Officer in accordance with Part 3 of this Constitution.
- 24.2. Where a member of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee (including its Sub-Committees) requests a document which falls within Rule 24.1 of this Part 4A the Leader must provide that document as soon as reasonably practicable and

in any case no later than 10 clear working days after the Leader receives the request.

- 24.3. Subject to Rule 24.4 [and 24.5](#) of this Part 4A the Chair, or in the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is entitled to see papers in relation to private decisions of the Cabinet before the decision is made.
- 24.4. Overview and Scrutiny Committee members will be entitled to any such document or part of a document that contains Exempt or Confidential Information unless the Monitoring Officer determines that the information is not relevant to an action or decision they are reviewing or scrutinising or any review contained in any programme of work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Limits on Right to Copies

- 24.5. Where the Leader so determines, a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees will not be entitled to:
 - 24.5.1. any document that is in draft form; or
 - 24.5.2. the advice of a political advisor.
- 24.6. Where the Leader or Monitoring Officer determines that a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees is not entitled to a copy of a document or part of any such document, under Rule 24.4 and Rule 24.1 of this Part 4A, the Leader or Monitoring Officer as applicable must provide the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a written statement setting out their reasons for that decision.

25. Additional rights of access for Councillors

- 25.1. All Councillors will be entitled to inspect any document which is in the possession or under the control of the Leader and/or the Cabinet, including its Committees or Sub-Committees, and contains material relating to:
 - 25.1.1. any business to be transacted at a public meeting;
 - 25.1.2. any business previously transacted at a private meeting;
 - 25.1.3. any decision made by a Portfolio Holder; or
 - 25.1.4. an Executive decision by an Officer;unless in the opinion of the Monitoring Officer it contains Confidential or Exempt Information or it contains the advice of a political advisor.
- 25.2. All Councillors will be entitled to inspect any document (except those available only in draft form) in the possession or under the control of the Leader or the Cabinet including its Committees and Sub-Committees which relates to any Key Decision unless Rule 24.4 of this Part 4A applies.

PART 4D

MEETING PROCEDURE RULES

D. Meeting Procedure Rules

1. Schedule of meetings

- 1.1. Full Council will determine the annual schedule of meetings for the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees, including the date, time and location. Where practicably possible, the month of August should be avoided when scheduling meetings, briefings, workshops, training and extraordinary meetings. There will be a general presumption against alterations to the date, time and venue for meetings.

Local
Government Act
1972, Schedule
12, Part 1, (S.3)

- 1.2. An Extraordinary Meeting of the Council can be called by the Chair, or five Councillors can ask the Chair, in writing, to call an Extraordinary Meeting. If the Chair does not agree, then those Councillors can call the meeting by giving written notice to the Monitoring Officer. The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair, may also call an Extraordinary Meeting.

Council

- 1.3. When it is necessary to alter the date, time and/or location of the Cabinet, a Committee or Sub-Committee meeting, or to arrange a special meeting of the Cabinet, a Committee or Sub-Committee, the Monitoring Officer or appropriate Democratic Services Officer will consult the Leader/Chair of the relevant Cabinet, Committee or Sub-Committee before any action is taken. The Leader/Chair of the Cabinet, Committee or Sub-Committee will then determine the matter.

Cabinet,
committees and
sub-committees

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 2.1. At the Annual Meeting, the Council will elect its Chair and Vice-Chair.

Council

- 2.2. At the first meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee following the annual meeting of the Council, the Committee or Sub-Committee will elect its Chair and Vice-Chair.

Committees and
sub-committees

- 2.3. The Chair, or in their absence the Vice-Chair (who will have the same powers and duties as the Chair), will preside at meetings. Where both the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent, the meeting will appoint another Councillor, other than a member of the Cabinet, to chair the meeting, who will have the same powers and duties as the Chair.

Council,
committees and
sub-committees

- 2.4. The Chair of the relevant meeting for the preceding year, or in their absence the Vice-Chair, shall preside over the election of Chair. In the absence of both the preceding Chair and Vice-Chair for a Committee or Sub-Committee, the Chair of the Council, or in their absence the Vice-Chair of the Council, shall preside over the election of Chair. Where both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council are absent, the membership shall agree, prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, another Councillor from the membership to preside over the election of Chair. The person presiding over the election of Chair shall be entitled to a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes.

Council,
committees and
sub-committees

- 2.5. The meeting may elect, from among the voting members, a councillor to the office of Chair and Vice-Chair. For the avoidance of doubt, a councillor who is

Council,
committees and
sub-committees

absent and substituted for the meeting at which the election takes place is not eligible for nomination.

2.6. In the event that an ineligible councillor is elected to office, that councillor shall not be permitted to take office and the candidate with the second-highest number of votes, where a ballot is conducted, shall be duly elected.

3. Records of Attendance

The Monitoring Officer will keep a record of Councillors attending any meeting of the Council, the Cabinet, any Committee, or Sub-Committee.

4. Quorum

4.1. No business shall be dealt with at the Council meeting if there are fewer than one quarter of Councillors who are members of that body present at the meeting. Where the meeting has started, and the number of Councillors present is fewer than one quarter of the number of Councillors, the Chair will adjourn the meeting. Where the Chair does not give a date and/or time for the consideration of the remaining business, all business not completed will be considered at the next meeting.

Council

4.2. The quorum of a meeting of the Council's Committees and Sub-Committees will be one third of the number of voting members or three voting members, whichever is the greater, except for the Cabinet which will be three to include the Leader or in their absence, the Deputy Leader. The quorum for the Childrens Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be one third of members of the Committee excluding the voting co-optees.

Cabinet,
committees and
sub-committees

5. Order of business

Business shall be dealt with in the order in which it is set out in the agenda unless the Chair or the meeting decides otherwise.

6. Duration of meetings

6.1. Upon a meeting duration reaching two hours without a previous adjournment, the Chair shall, unless in their opinion it is expedient to continue to the end of remaining business, adjourn the meeting at the end of the item under discussion for a short adjournment the duration of which is at the Chair's discretion but must not exceed 30 minutes.

6.2. Rule 6.1 does not preclude a Motion without Notice being moved under Procedure Rule 10 to adjourn a meeting.

6.7. Urgent Business

6.1.7.1. Business cannot be dealt with at a meeting unless it is included in the agenda and made available for public inspection at least five clear working days before the meeting or, where the meeting is convened at short notice, from the time the meeting is convened.

- ~~40.1.16.~~11.1.16. suspending Procedure Rules, in accordance with Procedure Rule 20 of this Part 4D;
- ~~40.1.17.~~11.1.17. motion under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public;
- ~~40.1.18.~~11.1.18. that a Councillor named under Procedure Rule 24 of this Part 4D should not be heard further;
- ~~40.1.19.~~11.1.19. by the Chair under Procedure Rule 24 of this Part 4D, that a Councillor do leave the meeting; and
- ~~40.1.20.~~11.1.20. giving consent of the Council where consent of the Council is required by these Procedure Rules.

11.12. General Questions by Councillors at Council meetings

Council

- ~~41.1.~~12.1. A Councillor may ask the Chair, the Leader, a Portfolio Holder or the Chair of a Committee any question about a matter which the Council, the Cabinet or the Committee has powers, duties or responsibilities.
- ~~41.2.~~12.2. Questions must be sent in writing to the Monitoring Officer or their nominated representative at least five clear working days before the meeting. In calculating the period the date of the meeting and the date of submission of the question are not included in the calculation.
- ~~41.3.~~12.3. The Chair may agree to take urgent questions where they consider that it has not been possible for a Councillor to give the required notice, provided that a copy of the question is given to the Monitoring Officer before the meeting starts.
- ~~41.4.~~12.4. A question will be rejected by the Chair in consultation with the Monitoring Officer where it:
 - ~~41.4.1.~~12.4.1. does not relate to a matter for which the Council has a responsibility, or which affects the Council's administrative area;
 - ~~41.4.2.~~12.4.2. is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, vexatious, unlawful, solely or mainly rhetorical or otherwise improper;
 - ~~41.4.3.~~12.4.3. requires the disclosure of Confidential or Exempt Information as defined by the Access to Information Procedure Rules;
 - ~~41.4.4.~~12.4.4. names or identifies individual service users, Officers or members of staff of partner agencies;
 - ~~41.4.5.~~12.4.5. is considered to be inappropriate for the particular meeting; or
 - ~~41.4.6.~~12.4.6. duplicates a question that has been asked within the preceding six months.
- ~~41.5.~~12.5. A Councillor may ask no more than two questions at any meeting, but the Councillor may not ask their second question until other Councillors, if any, have asked their first questions, subject to the Chair's discretion.

~~41.6.~~12.6. Subject to Rule 11.5 of this Part 4D, questions will be asked in the order of receipt and answered without discussion. In replying, the Councillor answering the question will use their reasonable endeavours to address the matters raised in the question. The Councillor to whom the question is addressed may decline to answer any question or may: reply direct, refer the question to another appropriate Councillor to respond, reply by reference to a publication, reply by written answer with a copy to such other Councillors as the Council agrees, or refer the question to an appropriate Committee or to the Cabinet.

~~41.7.~~12.7. Following the answer to each question, the questioner may only ask a one supplementary question which must relate to the initial answer. A reply may not be given if the question is: not related to the initial answer; is unduly lengthy; or is inappropriate. The Councillor answering the supplementary question will decide whether or not to reply.

~~41.8.~~12.8. Where a question submitted under this Rule relates to a matter that appears on the Agenda for that meeting, the question shall be put and answered in accordance with this Procedure Rule, at the start of the consideration of that matter, and the time taken to deal with such questions will not form part of the 30 minutes set aside for General Questions.

~~41.9.~~12.9. The time allowed for Councillors to ask questions under this Rule will be a maximum of 30 minutes but is otherwise a matter for the discretion of the Chair who, in exercising their discretion, will have regard to the business to be transacted at the meeting and the objective of ensuring that the meeting is managed efficiently.

~~42.~~13. **Public participation at meetings**

~~42.1.~~13.1. The following procedures enable members of the public to submit questions, make statements and present petitions at ordinary meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees.

~~42.2.~~13.2. The time for questions, statements and petitions from members of the public shall normally commence immediately after the item 'Declarations of Interest' on the agenda for the meeting and shall be restricted to a total of 15 minutes, although, at the discretion of the Chair of the Council or the Chair of the meeting, this time may be extended. Where a question to which an answer is to be given is not reached within the time limit, a written answer shall be provided to the questioner within two working days of the meeting and a copy e-mailed to all Councillors.

~~42.3.~~13.3. This procedure does not apply to Planning Committee, Licensing Committee or Appeals Committee. Separate protocols establish the arrangements for public representations at Planning and Licensing Committees. Such protocols are reviewed and approved by the respective Committee, included within Part 6 of the Constitution and published on the website.

Council,
Cabinet,
Committees and
Sub-Committees
(except
Planning,
Licensing and
Appeals
committees)
unless otherwise
stated

Public Questions

~~12.4.~~13.4. Members of the public may ask questions at meetings of the Full Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council. The protocol for questions is as follows:

13.4.1. subject to the requirements of this Protocol, a member of the public who lives or works in the area of the Council may submit a written question to the Leader of the Council, a Portfolio Holder or the Chair of the Council or of a Committee of the Council;

~~12.4.1.~~13.4.2. the person to whom the question is submitted shall respond to the question at the relevant meeting unless the matter is of such a specialist nature that it requires a response from the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Section 151 Officer, or a specialist officer nominated by one of those officers.

13.4.3. a person wishing to ask a question shall submit the question in writing which must be received by the Monitoring Officer or their nominated representative by mid-day threefour clear working days before the meeting at which it is to be asked. The person's name and address must be included. In calculating this period the date of the meeting and date of submission are to be excluded;

~~12.4.2.~~13.4.4. where a report is not published five-clear days before the meeting, the deadline for the submission of questions, as defined in 13.4.3, shall be adjusted accordingly by the number of days that the publication of the report is delayed;

~~12.4.3.~~13.4.5. a question at Council shall relate to Council business, shall not exceed 100 words in length and shall be so framed as to elicit information rather than make a statement;

13.4.6. a question at a Committee, Sub-Committee or at the Cabinet shall relate to an item of business as defined on the agenda of the meeting at which the question is asked and shall not exceed 100 words in length;

~~12.4.4.~~13.4.7. for the avoidance of doubt, headings, abbreviations, acronymns and grammatical symbols substituting words shall count towards the 100 word limit, whilst a singular date shall be counted as one word;

13.4.8. at Full Council no member of the public may ask more than four questions in any one Municipal Year;

~~12.4.5.~~13.4.9. no member of the public may ask more than one question on any individual item of business as defined on the agenda of the meeting;

~~12.4.6.~~13.4.10. questions shall be provided to Councillors electronically prior to the commencement of the meeting and hard copies made available for members of the public attending the meeting. No discussion shall be allowed upon questions or answers;

Council

Cabinet,
Committees and
Sub-Committees

Council

~~12.4.7.~~13.4.11. the person asking the question may attend the meeting to read out their question or nominate another member of the public only person to read out the question on their behalf, and to hear the answer. If someone is unable to attend and fails to nominate someone to attend on their behalf, the question will not be read out, but will be responded to by way of written answer;

~~12.4.8.~~13.4.12. if questions are unsuitable in form, frivolous, defamatory, derogatory or relate to a matter which the Council would be likely to consider in the absence of the press and public, the Chair shall have the right to rule the question out of order;

~~12.4.9.~~13.4.13. in exceptional cases members of the public who do not live or work in the administrative area of the Council but who are directly affected by a decision or potential decision of the Council can submit a question in accordance with the above protocol. In such cases, the Monitoring Officer will determine the validity or otherwise of the question in consultation with the appropriate Chair.

Public Statements

~~12.5.~~13.5. Members of the public may make statements at meetings of the Full Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council. The protocol for statements is as follows:

~~12.5.1.~~13.5.1. subject to the requirements of this protocol, a member of the public who lives or works in the area of the Council may submit a written statement to the Council, Cabinet, Committee or a Sub-Committee of the Council;

~~12.5.2.~~13.5.2. a person wishing to make a statement under this protocol shall submit the statement in writing which must be received by the Monitoring Officer or their nominated representative by midday the day before the meeting at which it is to be raised. The person's name and address must be included;

~~12.5.3.~~13.5.3. a statement at Council shall relate to Council business and shall not exceed 100 words in length. At Full Council no member of the public may submit more than four statements in any one Municipal Year;

13.5.4. a statement at Committee, Sub-Committee or Cabinet shall relate to an item of business as defined on the agenda of the meeting at which the statement is made and shall not exceed 100 words in length;

~~12.5.4.~~13.5.5. for the avoidance of doubt, headings, abbreviations, acronyms and grammatical symbols substituting words shall count towards the 100 word limit, whilst a singular date shall be counted as one word;

13.5.6. at Full Council no member of the public may make more than four statements in any one Municipal Year;

Council

Cabinet,
Committees and
Sub-Committees

Council

13.5.7. no member of the public may make more than one statement on any individual item of business as defined on the agenda of the meeting;

12.5.5.13.5.8. statements shall be printed in order of receipt and circulated electronically to Councillors prior to the commencement of the meeting and hard copies made available for members of the public attending the meeting. No discussion shall be allowed upon statements;

12.5.6.13.5.9. the person making the statement ~~shall~~ may attend the meeting to read out their statement or nominate another member of the public only to read out the statement on their behalf. If someone is unable to attend and fails to nominate someone to attend on their behalf, the statement will not be read out~~normally attend the meeting to read out their statement. However, persons may, if they prefer, ask for an officer of the Council to read out their statement;~~

12.5.7.13.5.10. if statements are unsuitable in form, frivolous, defamatory, derogatory or relate to a matter which the Council would be likely to consider in the absence of the press and public, the Chair shall have the right to rule the statement out of order;

12.5.8.13.5.11. in exceptional cases, members of the public who do not live or work in the administrative area of the Council but who are directly affected by a decision or potential decision of the Council can submit a statement in accordance with the above protocol. In such cases, the Monitoring Officer will determine the validity or otherwise of the statement in consultation with the appropriate Chair.

Petitions

12.6.13.6. Anyone who lives, works or studies in the Council's area may sign or organise a petition and trigger a response. This includes anyone under the age of 18. This petition scheme explains the rules that the Council will apply to any petition it receives.

12.7.13.7. Petitions submitted to the Council under this scheme must:

12.7.1.13.7.1. include a clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition;

12.7.2.13.7.2. state what lawful action the petitioners wish the Council to take;

12.7.3.13.7.3. be signed by at least 20 people supporting the petition;

12.7.4.13.7.4. include the name and address (in a legible format) and signature of any person supporting the petition together with their connection with the Council's area (i.e., lives, works or studies); and

~~42.7.5.~~~~13.7.5.~~ contact details, including name, address, telephone number (and where possible, an e-mail address) of the petition organiser.

~~42.8.~~~~13.8.~~ The petition organiser is the person the Council will contact to explain how it will respond to the petition. The contact details of the petition organiser will not be placed on the Council's website.

~~42.9.~~~~13.9.~~ An electronic petition system is available on the Council's website.

~~42.10.~~~~13.10.~~ If a petition does not include all of the information required by this scheme it may not be accepted by the Monitoring Officer. In that case, the Council will write to the petition organiser to explain the reasons why.

Petitions not included in this scheme

~~42.11.~~~~13.11.~~ The Council will not take action on any petition which the Monitoring Officer considers to be vexatious, abusive or otherwise inappropriate and will explain the reasons for this in the acknowledgement of the petition.

~~42.12.~~~~13.12.~~ This petition scheme does not apply to:

~~42.12.1.~~~~13.12.1.~~ any petition which is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility, or which affects its area;

~~42.12.2.~~~~13.12.2.~~ any petition relating to a planning or licensing application or decision (which will be referred by the Monitoring Officer to the relevant officer/committee so that it can be considered in accordance with arrangements that the relevant committee has agreed);

~~42.12.3.~~~~13.12.3.~~ a statutory petition (for example requesting a referendum);

~~42.12.4.~~~~13.12.4.~~ a petition that is related to confidential staffing matters; or

~~42.12.5.~~~~13.12.5.~~ a petition relating to a matter where there is already an existing recourse to a review or right of appeal, such as council tax banding and non-domestic rates, where other procedures apply.

~~42.13.~~~~13.13.~~ In addition, any petition on the same or similar topic as one that the Council has received and dealt with in the previous six months is excluded.

~~42.14.~~~~13.14.~~ Details of petitions affecting particular wards that have been excluded will be sent to the Councillors representing those wards.

~~42.15.~~~~13.15.~~ In exceptional cases, members of the public who do not live, work or study in the Council's area but who are, nevertheless, affected by a decision or potential decision of the Council can submit a petition in accordance with this scheme and the Monitoring Officer will determine the relevance of such a petition in consultation with the Chair of Council or with the Chair of the appropriate Committee.

Guidelines for submitting a petition

~~12.16.~~13.16. Petitions can be submitted in paper format or electronically through the Council's e-petition portal.

~~12.17.~~13.17. Paper petitions can be submitted to the Monitoring Officer at the main office of the Council.

~~12.18.~~13.18. The Council will accept e-petitions hosted by third parties which meet the requirements of this scheme, in particular those required by Rule 12.7 of this Part 4D.

~~12.19.~~13.19. If the appropriate threshold is met, petitions can also be presented to a meeting of the Council or its Committees or to the Cabinet. Where the threshold is met for debate at a meeting of Council the petition organiser should contact the Monitoring Officer at least 10 working days before the meeting.

How the Council will respond to a petition

~~12.20.~~13.20. The Council will acknowledge receipt of a petition within 10 working days setting out what the Council plans to do with the petition. The acknowledgment will let the petition organiser know what the Council plans to do with the petition and when they can expect to hear from the Council again. The petition will be published on the Council's website, except in cases where this would be inappropriate. Where the subject matter of the petition affects particular wards, the Councillors representing those wards will be notified of the receipt of the petition.

~~12.21.~~13.21. If paragraph 3.3 applies to the petition, then the Council's acknowledgement will include details of any previous petition on the same topic. If the Council is still considering a petition on the same or similar topic, the acknowledgement will tell the petition organiser that the new petition has been amalgamated with the first petition.

~~12.22.~~13.22. The Council's response to a petition will depend on what a petition asks for, but may include one or more of the following:

~~12.22.1.~~13.22.1. taking the action requested in the petition;

~~12.22.2.~~13.22.2. considering the petition at a meeting of the Council or Cabinet;

~~12.22.3.~~13.22.3. holding an inquiry into the matter;

~~12.22.4.~~13.22.4. holding a public meeting;

~~12.22.5.~~13.22.5. holding a meeting with petitioners or the petition organiser;

~~12.22.6.~~13.22.6. undertaking research into the matter;

~~12.22.7.~~13.22.7. writing to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views about the request in the petition;

~~12.22.8.~~13.22.8. referring the petition to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or another Committee of the Council for consideration;

~~12.22.9.~~13.22.9. referring the petition, in the first instance, to another formal body of the Council where the subject matter of the petition falls within the scope of the terms of reference of that body.

~~12.23.~~13.23. The Council's response may also depend on the number of people who have signed the petition. The table below sets out the thresholds:

Number of signatories	Response
20 – 49	Response from relevant director / service head (treated as standard correspondence)
50 – 1,999	Response from relevant Cabinet member
2,000 +	Referred for debate at a meeting of Full Council

~~12.24.~~13.24. If the Council is able to do what a petition asks, the acknowledgement to the petition organiser may confirm that the Council has taken the action requested and the petition will be closed.

~~12.25.~~13.25. Where the petition is referred to the relevant Cabinet member for a response, the petition organiser will be invited to make a written statement in support of the petition (if one has not already been included in the petition).

~~12.26.~~13.26. If the petition has enough signatures to be referred to trigger a debate at a meeting of the Full Council, then the acknowledgment will confirm this and inform the petition organiser when and where the relevant meeting will take place. The Council will try to consider the petition at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible, and consideration will then take place at the following meeting.

Council

~~12.27.~~13.27. Where the petition is referred to the Full Council, the petition organiser (or any person authorised by them) will, if they so wish, be given a period not exceeding three minutes to present the petition at the meeting and unless the petition is referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or another Committee or Sub-Committee for consideration without debate; the petition will be debated by members. Members may ask questions of the petition organiser. ~~The petition organiser (or any person authorised by them) will be granted a right of reply for a further period not exceeding three minutes at the end of the debate and before a final decision or vote is taken.~~

Council

~~13.14.~~13.14. Rules of Debate

Motions and Amendments

~~13.1.~~14.1. No motion or amendment shall be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded. Where required by the Chair, motions or amendments shall be put in writing and handed to the Chair before they are further discussed or put to the meeting.

~~13.2.~~14.2. At meetings other than those of the Full Council, the Chair of that meeting may, at their discretion, allow a motion or amendment to be put which is not in writing, provided that the Chair has concluded that the wording of the motion or amendment is understood by all members of the body concerned. This requirement does not apply to motions submitted under Procedure Rule 9 of this Part 4D.

Cabinet,
committees and
sub-committees

Seconders's Speech

~~13.3.~~14.3. When seconding a motion or amendment a Councillor may advise the Chair that they will reserve their right to speak until a later period in the debate.

Only One Councillor to Stand at a Time

~~13.4.~~14.4. When speaking at the Council meeting a Councillor shall stand if they are able and address the Chair. While a Councillor is speaking the other Councillors will remain seated, unless rising on a point of order or in personal explanation.

Council

Content and Length of Speeches, Questions and Responses to Questions

~~13.5.~~14.5. A Councillor will confine their speech to the question under discussion, a personal explanation or a point of order. Except as indicated below, in the case of speeches made by Councillors when the Council is agreeing a budget, or where the Council, Committee or Sub-Committee otherwise agrees, no speech, ~~or~~ question or response to a question will exceed three minutes.

~~13.6.~~14.6. In advance of the meeting at which the Council is due to agree a budget, the Council's Political Groups may agree a protocol which makes provision for a limited number of speeches to be made on behalf of each Political Group, and which exceed the three minute limitation contained in these Rules. The Chair will have discretion as to how such a protocol will be implemented at the meeting and, where no agreement can be reached between the Political Groups, whether and (if so) how any extension of the three minute limitation might be permitted to operate.

Council

When a Councillor may speak again

~~13.7.~~14.7. At the Council meeting a Councillor who has spoken on any motion shall not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:

Council

~~13.7.1.~~14.7.1. to speak once on an amendment moved by another Councillor;

~~13.7.2.~~14.7.2. if the motion has been amended since they last spoke, to move a further amendment;

~~13.7.3.~~14.7.3. if their first speech was on an amendment moved by another Councillor, to speak on the main issue, whether or not the amendment on which they spoke was carried;

~~13.7.4.~~14.7.4. in exercise of a right of reply;

Scrutiny Committees where the item is within the remit of that particular body. It should be read in conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4C of this Constitution. The restrictions in Rule 15.3 of this Part 4D on the number of items shall not apply.

16.17. Disclosure of Confidential/Exempt Matters

~~16.1.~~17.1. No Councillor shall disclose to any person the whole or any part of the contents of any agenda, report or other document which is marked “confidential” or “not for publication” unless and until the document has been made available to the public or the press by or on behalf of the Council, the Cabinet, a Committee or Sub-Committee.

~~16.2.~~17.2. No Councillor shall disclose to any person other than a Councillor any matter arising during the proceedings of the Council, the Cabinet, any Committee, or Sub-Committee and which comes to their knowledge by virtue of their office as a Councillor where such disclosure would prejudice the interest of the Council or would be contrary to law.

~~16.3.~~17.3. No Councillor shall disclose to any person any decision or proceedings of that body except when one of the following applies (provided that nothing in this paragraph shall authorise disclosure which would contravene Rule 16.1 or Rule 16.2 of this Part 4D):

~~16.3.1.~~17.3.1. a report on the matter has been circulated to the Council by that body;

~~16.3.2.~~17.3.2. the decision has become public knowledge; or

~~16.3.3.~~17.3.3. the matter comes within the powers of that body and a final decision has been made upon it.

17.18. Voting

18.1. It is the responsibility of each councillor to properly inform themselves and ensure that they are sufficiently appraised of any matter before voting.

~~17.1.~~18.2. Voting will be by a show of hands or where practical and the means are available to those present, by electronic means. Where there is a clear majority in favour of a proposal the person presiding will ask if any Councillor wishes to vote against or abstain from a proposal.

~~17.2.~~18.3. When a Councillor asks for a recorded vote to be taken, and one quarter of Councillors present support the request, the vote will be recorded to show whether each Councillor voted for or against the motion or abstained.

~~17.3.~~18.4. A recorded vote will not be taken if the vote has already begun to be taken by a show of hands.

~~17.4.~~18.5. A Councillor may require, after a vote is completed, that the minutes of the meeting record how they voted or abstained.

~~17.5-18.6.~~ Where there are equal votes cast for a motion or amendment the Chair or the person presiding will have a second or casting vote.

~~18-19.~~ Offices and Appointments

~~18.1-19.1.~~ A secret ballot will be held to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council, Committees and Sub-Committees, or Councillors to any office or position where more than one person is nominated.

~~18.2-19.2.~~ If a secret ballot is held and no person receives more than half of the votes cast, the name of the person with the least number of votes will be withdrawn. Further ballots will be held until one person receives a clear majority.

~~18.3-19.3.~~ The Chair, or person presiding, will have a second or casting vote where the votes are equal.

~~19-20.~~ Variation and revocation of Procedure Rules

Any motion under Procedure Rule 9 (Motions on Notice) of this Part 4D, to vary or revoke these Rules shall, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

Council

~~20-21.~~ Suspension of Procedure Rules

~~20.1-21.1.~~ Any of the Procedure Rules may be suspended to the extent permitted within the Rules and the law in respect of any business at a meeting of the Council, Cabinet, a Committee or Sub-Committee where its suspension is moved.

~~20.2-21.2.~~ A motion to suspend Procedure Rules shall not be moved without notice (that is under Procedure Rule 10 of this Part 4D) unless there shall be present at least one-half of the Members of the Council or that Cabinet, Committee or Sub-Committee respectively. The extent and duration of the suspension will be proportionate to the result to be achieved taking into account the purposes of the Constitution set out in Article 1.

~~21-22.~~ Interpretation of Procedure Rules

Subject to taking advice from the Monitoring Officer or their nominated representative, The ruling of the person presiding as to the construction or application of any of these Procedure Rules, or as to any proceedings of the Council, shall not be challenged at any meeting.

~~22-23.~~ Substitute Members

Committees and sub-committees

~~22.1-23.1.~~ A Political Group may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer or their nominated representative, appoint a substitute member from within its Group for a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee.

~~22.2-23.2.~~ Members of the Cabinet shall not be nominated as substitutes for any Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Regulatory Committee.

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Council

(Originally drafted for Health and Wellbeing Board)



Report subject	Update on role of the Health and Wellbeing Boards in the Integrated Care System
Meeting date	13 October 2022
Status	Public report
Executive summary	This report updates Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board on how the Board could develop its role and purpose as the Integrated Care System evolves. It summarises new national guidance for Health and Wellbeing Boards on their ongoing responsibilities. In addition, a brief summary of key points from the recent joint development session is presented, including recommendations for how boards should operate from the Local Government Association.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: Members are asked to recommend to Full Council an addition to the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board so that it becomes the strategic board for the place-based partnership developing in the BCP Council area, as part of the Dorset Integrated Care System.
Reason for recommendations	To ensure that the Health and Wellbeing Board is the strategic body responsible for developing a clear Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the BCP Council 'place'. This will provide the ICS with a clear strategic steer on priorities for place-based commissioning and health and wellbeing improvements, as well as avoiding unnecessary duplication

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Jane Kelly, Portfolio holder for Communities, Health and Leisure
Corporate Director	Sam Crowe, Director of Public Health, Public Health Dorset
Contributors	
Wards	All Wards
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. Health and Wellbeing Boards are statutory committees of Councils responsible for promoting integration and prevention in local systems and undertaking Joint Strategic Needs Assessments to inform Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies for their areas.
2. As Integrated Care Systems develop, these responsibilities have been confirmed as continuing by national guidance published in July 2022. However, there is ongoing potential for confusion because the legislation enacted to create ICSs also creates a new Integrated Care Partnership for the local system, as well as two place-based partnerships beneath this, covering the BCP Council and Dorset Council.
3. Over time, place-based partnerships are intended to be effective committees for developing integration and place-based commissioning plans, supported by shared outcomes frameworks and devolved budgets for local areas. This creation of place-based partnerships by the legislation means Health and Wellbeing Boards, with their existing statutory functions, should consider their future role and purpose, as potential strategic leaders of each place within the ICS.
4. In the light of these changes, BCP Council Health and Wellbeing Board and Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board held a joint development session in July to consider a number of recommendations from the Local Government Association, alongside the revised national guidance on the role of Health and Wellbeing Boards.
5. This short summary is intended to present the main points for the Board to consider. In addition, Members are asked to support a recommendation for the

BCP Council Health and Wellbeing Board to assume the role of being the strategic level board responsible for developing a clear view of priorities and an effective Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the BCP Council place.

Summary of key points from the joint development session

6. In the first part of the session Members from both Boards heard a presentation from Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive of the LGA on how Health and Wellbeing Boards will work with ICSs based on existing responsibilities, and new responsibilities coming from the ICS legislation.
7. The presentation acknowledged HWBs ongoing statutory responsibilities with much continuity in how they would work. However, it also set out some key areas where HWBs and ICS partners would have new duties. This includes:
 - ICSs will need to engage HWBs on key planning documents, including the ICB forward plan and annual reports. The Board will be asked to comment on the extent to which it's joint local health and wellbeing strategy has been enacted through ICB plans;
 - ICPs will need to have 'due regard' to HWBs joint strategic needs assessments, and local health and wellbeing strategies, and to involve HWBs in the creation of the ICP strategy;
 - HWBs are expected to provide a strong focus for place, improving wellbeing through joint working, and set the strategic direction to improve health and wellbeing;
 - In their annual reports, the ICB must set out the steps they have taken to implement joint local health and wellbeing strategies;
 - HWBs should consider revising their health and wellbeing strategies after the development of the ICP strategy;
 - All ICSs required to make rapid progress in developing place-based partnerships – including governance to bring NHS and Local authority leadership together; this will include a single accountable place leader for each place – which could be a HWB member;
 - Where ICSs and HWBs are coterminous, they can choose to bring the bodies and functions together for efficiency (although they remain separate identifies legally). In the Dorset system, this could mean the ICP effectively becomes the two HWBs working closely together to drive health and wellbeing improvements.
8. In the discussion that followed, Members made several common points:
 - That both boards would play an important role in developing a strong vision for place-based health and wellbeing improvement, with ongoing potential to work together;

- The Boards should work collaboratively with the community and voluntary sector, focusing on non-medical approaches to support people's wellbeing;
 - Work with people to better understand how best to meet their priorities, not service priorities, and be creative in thinking differently about supporting people;
 - Understanding partner perspectives – health, Council and voluntary and community sector – would be vital to moving forward on more action focused plans to improve health and wellbeing in each place.
9. The full notes from the session have been circulated to Members of both Boards, along with Sarah Pickup's presentation on the future role for Boards in relation to ICSs.
 10. In summary, both HWBs Members' recognised the potential for the Boards to be the strategic leadership forum in each place, taking advantage of the change in legislation to set clear direction on priorities for improving health and wellbeing through Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies.
 11. To support the strategies and role of the boards, the Joint Public Health Board agreed to use some of the uplift to the Public Health Grant in 22-23 to support place-based partnerships. The total amount is £609k, split equally between the two boards and to be used to support the priorities as set out in the health and wellbeing strategy.
 12. However, Members also recognised the challenge in getting the governance and decision making right, avoiding unnecessary duplication and confusion arising from the new bodies created by the legislation.

Summary of financial implications

13. There are no direct financial implications to note.

Summary of legal implications

14. There are no legal implications to note.

Summary of human resources implications

15. There are no human resources implications to note.

Summary of environmental impact

16. There are no environmental impacts to note although effective place-based partnership working should consider how best to ensure all future actions consider climate impacts.

Summary of public health implications

17. Having a strong place-based partnership in place, led by each Health and Wellbeing Board, is essential for improving health and wellbeing by taking full advantage of the ICS changes, joint leadership for health, including working with people and communities.

Summary of equality implications

18. There are no equality implications to note.

Summary of risk assessment

19. HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

Background papers

Notes from the joint development session

Sarah Pickup's presentation from the LGA

[Health and Wellbeing Boards: Draft guidance for engagement](#)

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COUNCIL



Report subject	Review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each Political Group, appointment of Councillors to Committees and appointments to Outside bodies
Meeting date	8 November 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Council is asked to consider and approve the review of the political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on Committees to each Political Group, appointment of Councillors to Committees and appointments to Outside bodies following Councillors Jackie Edwards and Andy Jones leaving the Conservative Group to be unaligned, and the result of the by-election in the Highcliffe and Walkford Ward.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the revised political balance of the Council, as set out in Table 1 of this report be approved; (b) the number of seats on each committee, as set out in Table 2, be approved; (c) the allocation of seats to each political group, as set out in Table 3 (to follow), be approved; (d) the appointment of Councillors to Committees and Boards, taking account of the membership as detailed in Table 4 (to follow), be approved; (e) the allocation of seats to each political group on the outside bodies as detailed in Table 5 (to follow), be approved; (f) the appointment of Councillors to the outside bodies, as detailed in Table 6 (to follow), be approved; (g) Subject to (b) and (f) above the Council is requested to approve the appointment of unaligned Members to any Committees, Boards and Outside bodies.
Reason for recommendations	To ensure compliance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations in reviewing and approving the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats together with any other associated issues.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council

Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Richard Jones, Head of Democratic Services
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Council is asked to consider the political balance of the Council following notification that Councillors Jackie Edwards and Andy Jones had left the Conservative Group to become unaligned from any political group.
2. Furthermore, Councillor Andy Martin was elected as Councillor for the Highcliffe and Walkford ward at the recent by-election on 6 October and the proper officer has received notice that Councillor Martin has joined the Christchurch Independents political group.
3. Set out in Table 1 below is the revised political balance of the Council reflecting these changes.

Table 1

	No of Seats	% of total seats	Seat entitlement
Conservative	35	46.05	48
Liberal Democrats	13	17.11	18
Christchurch Independents	7	9.21	10
Poole Independents	5	6.58	7
Poole Local	5	6.58	7
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	4	5.26	5
Labour	3	3.95	4
Non-aligned	4	5.26	5
Total	76	100.00	104

4. The seat entitlement calculation (rounded to the nearest whole number) is based on the total number of seats on all applicable committees. Table 2 below, sets out the proposed number of seats on each committee. This reflects an increase in the number of seats on the Licensing Committee from 14 to 15, and an increase in the number of seats on the Investigation and Disciplinary Committee from 6 to 7.

Table 2

Committee	Seats
Planning Committee	15
Licensing Committee	15
Standards Committee	7
Appeals Committee	7
Audit and Governance Committee	9
Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
Investigation and Disciplinary Committee	7
Total	104

5. The following principles are contained within Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and have been amended under the regulations to take account of the fact that not all the seats are held by members of political groups. They need to be applied in the following order and as far as practicably possible:
- (a) Not all the seats on a committee are allocated to the same political group.
 - (b) Where a group has a majority of seats on the Authority it should have the majority of seats on each committee.
 - (c) The third rule provides that, without being inconsistent with the first two rules, the number of seats allocated to each political group on all the ordinary committees taken together be as near as reasonably practicable proportionate to their proportion of seats as a proportion of the authority as a whole.
 - (d) Finally, so far as is consistent with the above each group should be allocated seats on each committee to reflect their proportion of seats on the authority.

Allocation of Committee Seats to Political Groups

6. The Council is asked to consider the proposed changes to the allocation of seats to each political group as detailed in Table 3 below. The last column in the table below identifies that there is no variance when compared to the calculations set out in Table 1. These calculations are therefore not at variance with the political balance provisions.

Table 3	Planning Committee	Licensing Committee	Standards Committee	Appeals Committee	Audit & Governance Committee	Corporate & Community O&S Committee	Health & Adult Social Care O&S Committee	Children's Services O&S Committee	Place O&S Committee	Investigation and Disciplinary Committee	Total	Variance (+/-)
Conservative	7	7	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	3	48	+ 0
Liberal Democrats	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	18	+ 0
Christchurch Independents	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	10	+ 0
Poole Independents	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	7	+ 0
Poole Local	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	7	+ 0
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	+ 0
Labour	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	+ 0
Non-aligned	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	5	+ 0
Total	15	15	7	7	9	11	11	11	11	7	104	

Appointment of Councillors to Committees

7. Table 4 below includes the membership of committees in accordance with the wishes of the political groups. The political groups may at any time alter the Group's membership of Committees, but any seats allocated to unaligned Members must be approved by full Council.
8. It should be noted that Part 4D of the Constitution Procedure Rules – (Meeting Procedure Rules) – Sub Part A – Council Meetings states “1.4 All councillors should be expected to sit on at least one committee or panel of the Council.”

Table 4	Planning Committee	Licensing Committee	Standards Committee	Appeals Committee	Audit & Governance Committee	Corporate & Community O&S Committee	Health & Adult Social Care O&S Committee	Children's Services O&S Committee	Place O&S Committee	Investigation and Disciplinary Committee
Conservative	Borthwick Davies Hall T Johnson Kelsey Lawton O'Neill	S Anderson Decent Dion Farr T Johnson Kelsey Williams	Borthwick Filer Kelsey	S Anderson Filer Haines Hedges	Beesley Fear Filer T Johnson	Allen Davies Hedges Rocca Williams	Dion C Johnson Phillips Stribley Vacancy	Coope Gabriel Haines Phillips Rocca	Brooks Coope Farr Gabriel Lawton	Mellor* Broadhead** Vacancy
Liberal Democrats	Le Poidevin Trent	Brown Burton	Andrews	Le Poidevin	Brooke Cox	Andrews Slade	Matthews Robson	Burton Moore	Earl Vacancy	Maidment Moore
Christchurch Independents	Hilliard McCormack	Flagg	Ricketts	Hilliard	Phipps	Vacancy	Dedman	Martin	-	Flagg
Poole Independents	Rice	Howell	-	Miles	Howell	-	Evans	-	Hadley	Evans
Poole Local	Baron	Bagwell J Butt	-	-	D Butt	Iyengar	-	D Butt	Iyengar	-
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	Bull	Wilson	Northover	-	-	-	-	Northover	Rigby	-
Labour	Farquhar	Farquhar	-	-	-	Allison	-	Lewis	-	-
Non-aligned	-	-	Jones	-	-	Bartlett	Butler Edwards	-	Bartlett	-

* Leader of the Council in accordance with the Constitution

** Portfolio Holder in accordance with the Constitution

Allocation of Outside Body Seats to Political Groups

9. The Council is asked to consider and approve the allocation of seats to the bodies listed in Tables 5 and 6 below, which are required, as far as practicably possible, to be appointed in accordance with the political balance principles. The number of seats on each body is fixed with the exception of the Lower Central Gardens Trust Board which may be either 4 or 5 seats. As a consequence of rounding decimal places, it not possible to achieve overall political balance as shown in the table below.

Table 5	Additional entitlement on outside bodies based on all Seats	Dorset Police and Crime Panel	Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority	Dorset Pension Fund Committee	Lower Central Gardens Trust Board *	Stour Valley and Poole Partnership Joint Committee	Total	Variance (+/-)
Conservative	10	3	2	2	2	1	10	+ 0
Liberal Democrats	4	0	1	1	1	1	4	+ 0
Christchurch Independents	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	+ 0
Poole Independents	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	+ 0
Poole Local	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	+ 0
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	+ 0
Labour	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	+ 0
Non-aligned	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	- 1
Total	23	5	5	3	5	4	22	

* Membership on Lower Central Gardens Trust Board must be not less than 4 and not more than 5.

Appointment of Councillors to Outside Bodies

Table 6	Dorset Police and Crime Panel	Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority	Dorset Pension Fund Committee	Lower Central Gardens Trust Board *	Stour Valley and Poole Partnership Joint Committee
Conservative	Dove Haines T Johnson	Davies T Johnson	Beesley Dove	M Greene Williams	Haines
Liberal Democrats	-	Earl	Brown	Slade	Brown
Christchurch Independents	-	Hilliard	-	-	Dedman
Poole Independents	Howell	-	-	-	-
Poole Local	-	Baron	-	-	-
Bournemouth Independent & Greens	Rigby	-	-	Bull	-
Labour	-	-	-	-	Farquhar
Non-aligned	-	-	-	Bartlett	-

Summary of financial implications

10. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Summary of legal implications

11. The Council is required to comply with the relevant legislation and regulations when considering and approving the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats.
12. The Act and Regulations make provisions where a proposal is not as far as possible politically representative. This includes instances where a Group gives up a seat which they are entitled to hold in favour of another and distorts the political balance rules. In such an instance such a proposal can only be accepted if no member votes against them.

Summary of human resources implications

13. There are no human resources implications associated with this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

14. There are no sustainability implications associated with this report.

Summary of public health implications

15. There are no public health implications associated with this report

Summary of equality implications

16. There are no equality implications associated with this report. It would be a matter for the political groups to consider any equality issues through their own appointment process.

Summary of risk assessment

17. There are no risk implications associated with this report.

Background papers

None

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

COUNCIL



Report subject	Homes for Ukraine Tariff
Meeting date	8 November 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>BCP council claims a tariff of £10,500 per person for those who have arrived in the area via the Homes for Ukraine refugee resettlement scheme.</p> <p>Financial regulations require full council agreement for acceptance of these funds, as well as agreement to spend these funds in line with the published grant conditions from government.</p> <p>As the number of Ukrainian guests already in BCP is estimated to be around 523 in the year 2022/23 this involves a projected grant income of £5,491,500</p> <p>This report sets out the purpose of the grant, the requests for acceptance of the funds, the authorisation to spend the funds and the delegation of future decisions on spending against this income.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The council accepts receipt of the grant monies claimed in line with the funding conditions set out by central government, and in compliance with financial regulations within the BCP constitution; (b) The council agrees that the funding received can be spent in line with the funding conditions set out in Homes for Ukraine local authority tariff payment grant determination No. 31/6205 (England); (c) The council agrees the decision to allocate £1,098,000 of the projected income to incentivise move on for refugees into the private rented sector; (d) The council agrees to delegate the decisions on spending this tariff funding to the Director of Housing and/or the Section 151 officer for BCP Council.
Reason for recommendations	<p>The tariff funding must be claimed by BCP to support the authority to provide wrap-around support to individuals and families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities, as set out by the government.</p>

	<p>Due to the number of Ukrainian refugees who have come to BCP via the Homes for Ukraine scheme the estimated funding and related expenditure exceeds £1m, therefore requiring full council decision on acceptance of the funds and the delegated powers to spend against this budgeted income.</p> <p>The decision to allocate over £1m of this income to facilitate housing options and prevention of homelessness also requires council oversight and agreement.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Karen Rampton
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Rachel Stewart, Housing Health and Social Care Manager (Resettlement)
Wards	All wards
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched on 14 March 2022 by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
2. This scheme is open to Ukrainian nationals who were residents in Ukraine prior to 1 January 2022 and also to their immediate family members (for example spouse/partner and children under 18) who may be of other nationalities, to be sponsored to come to the UK. Applicants can apply from Ukraine or from any other third country.
3. Guests will be able to live and work in the UK for up to 3 years and access benefits, healthcare, employment, and other support. Those arriving need to meet standard security checks prior to being issued with a visa. Sponsors and all adults in sponsors' households will also be subject to initial Police National Computer (PNC), criminal records and Warnings Index checks by the Home Office. Guests arriving from Ireland should only travel to the UK once they have a visa.
4. Government have determined that local authorities are able to claim £10,500 per person for a period of twelve months to support fulfilling their responsibilities which include
 - Initial reception
 - Data sharing
 - Safeguarding checks
 - Interim payment for guest
 - Provision of education
 - Service referrals

- Work and benefit
 - Homelessness assistance
 - Community integration
 - Administering payments to sponsors (who can opt to receive a standard £350 'thank you' payment administered by local authorities and reclaimed from central government).
5. The current projected income from the Homes for Ukraine tariff using current figures is £5,491,500 some of which will be claimed within 22/23 and some in 23/24.

The Homes for Ukraine scheme in BCP

6. As at the 20 October 2022 BCP has 397 people (158 children) across 190 host placements.
7. There has been a significant pressure to deliver our expected service to Ukrainian refugees, in addition to the other resettlement workstreams (Syrian/Afghan/HKBNO) which requires a staffing resource and use of the funds to support individual households with housing, safeguarding, welfare assistance, ESOL and community integration.
8. Nationally, there has been a media and public focus on the scheme and exit strategies now that many Ukrainians have been in the UK for 6 months or more.
9. Locally, the Resettlement team have had mounting enquiries on the assistance for hosts to continue with their sponsorship of refugees and for how the council may assist their Ukrainian guests to move on into other accommodation.
10. There is a focus on retaining guests within the scheme where possible to avoid the need for households to present as homeless.
11. To date there have been 25 homeless applications across H4U and Ukrainian family schemes (9 in temporary accommodation).
12. Budget spend has been identified to incentivise the retention of host arrangements (£510,000).
13. Budget spend has also been identified to incentivise the move on for guests into the private rented sector in BCP (as few if any households would be eligible for social housing or able to attain home ownership). This has been estimated at £1,098,000 however this is a very generous estimation of costs based on all households requiring the maximum financial support available.
14. The response to the crisis in Ukraine as well as the other UK asylum and resettlement need is being led by the local authority and its strategic partners in the public sector including health and the voluntary sector such as International Care Network (ICN). A coordinated approach across agencies has helped ensure the delivery of services to the guests.

Options Appraisal

15. The options in relation to these decisions are;
 - (1a) To not make any further claims for the tariff funding per person entering BCP on the Homes for Ukraine scheme, this would have a detrimental impact on the council's ability to deliver against its responsibilities to assist the resettlement of Ukrainian refugees.

- (1b) To accept the tariff funding in line with the BCP council constitution and incorporated financial regulations.
- (2a) To refuse the use of the tariff received to facilitate host retention and move on pathways, which would impact on the positive outcomes for Ukrainian refugee households and likely increase the number of households requiring statutory homelessness assistance.
- (2b) To agree to the use of the tariff funding on host retention and move on pathways, estimated to be above £1m but within the budget monitor; in compliance with the council's financial regulations.
- (3a) To agree to delegate future decisions on spending of the Homes for Ukraine tariff funds to the Director of Housing or Section 151 Officer within BCP Council.
- (3b) To refuse the delegation of decisions on spending of the Homes for Ukraine tariff and set out the alternative mechanism for agreement of budget spend.

Summary of financial implications

- 16. The Homes for Ukraine tariff is not a discretionary grant and all local authorities are eligible to make a claim for each guest.
- 17. The grant will be paid in full and in arrears for one year, based on actual data on arrivals. Payments will be made every quarter for one year.
- 18. A reconciliation process will be conducted at the end of the 2022-23 financial year.
- 19. This income has no impact on the base budget for the council as long as demands relating to the arrivals can be met within the limits of the ring fenced grant..
- 20. The budget monitor shows an estimated underspend, even allowing for the requested spend approval. This is a prudent approach to make sure that sufficient finances are in place to support the guests arriving.

Summary of legal implications

- 21. Without acceptance and use of this funding there is a risk of BCP Council not meeting our statutory obligations in respect of the Care Act, Children's Act and Homelessness Reduction Act.

Summary of human resources implications

- 22. Refusal of the tariff monies would have a detrimental impact on the staffing structure within the Resettlement team (within Housing Options and Partnerships as well as across the 'virtual' team from Social Care, Communities and Education)

Summary of sustainability impact

- 23. There is no identified sustainability impact.

Summary of public health implications

- 24. Health equality and wellbeing are an integral part of the service to BCP's Ukrainian refugee residents that the Resettlement team delivers, which is to be resourced from the Homes for Ukraine tariff.

Summary of equality implications

25. An EIA screening tool was completed for the change proposal drafted to CMB in July 2022, however this did not progress to EIA panel so is an outstanding requirement.

Summary of risk assessment

26. Risk of BCP Council not meeting our statutory obligations in respect of the Care Act, Children's Act and Homelessness Reduction Act. The required checks and visits to families, under the Homes4Ukraine Scheme, ensure any safeguarding, care and support needs are identified and the necessary services engaged. The limited resource without the use of the tariff funding would not be sufficient. Households will not be fully supported and integrated as is required through the scheme and it is likely that pressures will result as households fall back onto statutory services.
27. Risk of challenge from Central Government where we have not met the requirements of the resettlement schemes.
28. There has been a significant and positive community response across the UK and locally, particularly around the Homes4Ukraine Scheme. There is a presence on social media and increased contact with Councillors. If we do not sufficiently resource the co-ordination and day to day work of this growing service area there is a considerable risk of reputational damage.
29. Risk of financial loss as temporary ad-hoc arrangements continue, and a strategic and planned approach is not taken to adequately resource ahead of the increasing administrative burden on the Council.

Background papers

Published works

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

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